



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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MEMORANDUM

TO: NSTU Public School Members

FROM: Staff

DATE: December 3, 2016

RE: Teachers' Responsibilities during NSTU Work to Rule Job Action

Public School Teachers have expressed concerns with respect to their responsibilities for students during NSTU Work to Rule Job Action. The NSTU is disappointed with comments made by the Education and Early Childhood Development Minister implying that teachers intend to jeopardize student safety by abrogating their responsibilities outlined in Section 26 of the *Education Act*.

While following NSTU Work to Rule directives, teachers will “take all reasonable steps to create and maintain an orderly and safe learning environment” (Section 26 (1) (k)).

This means should a teacher believe that following a Work to Rule directive it would endanger student safety, the teacher will modify the Work to Rule directive, as minimally as possible, to ensure student safety is maintained. For example, this may include providing emergency assistance while students on lunch break should a School Based Administrator or Lunch Monitor be in need of support for a critical issue.

After hearing from School Based Administrators, the Provincial Executive has modified the directive that allows teachers to act as Teacher in Charge. A teacher will be required to act as Teacher in Charge if there is no administrator in the school.

Should you have questions pertaining to your responsibilities during Work to Rule, please contact your Local Job Action Committee Chair or strike@nstu.ca.
