

YELLOW BUS STRIKE:

Message from Mayor Bloomberg:

“The union that represents school bus drivers – Local 1181 of the Amalgamated Transit Union – has threatened what we believe is an illegal strike.

“A system-wide strike would impact more than 152,000 public school students from pre-kindergarten through high school who currently receive yellow busing.

“The reason for this potential strike is that the union is upset that the Department of Education released a bid to secure a new contract for bus service for pre-K special education students by the start of the 2012 school year. The union wants the bid proposal to include civil service-like seniority rights for current drivers—something that has never been included in pre-K bus contracts, and something the highest Court in New York State has ruled we cannot legally include. Without it, they have said they are prepared to strike, system-wide.

“This would be an outrageous act that would hurt our students and cause severe disruptions to their education

“The City has asked the National Labor Relations Board for an ‘unfair labor practice’ ruling against the union, and asked the Board to seek an injunction in federal Court. But we are also preparing immediate contingency plans to ensure that children get to school safely.

“This is a very difficult situation for all of us—none more so than our students—who want and need to get an education. We continue to hope that the bus driver and escort union will not take such unwarranted action in response to what is the proper, legal course of action for the Department of Education to take on behalf of our students and the City taxpayers.”

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