

## Supervision and Organization of Class/Program Composition and Formation: Update from Labour Relations Board Decision on BC Teachers' Federation Phase 1 Job Action

On July 26, 2011 the Labour Relations Board (LRB) released its decision regarding the designation of essential services in relation to the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) planned Phase 1 job action. For more information about the decision please refer to Essential Service Update [No. 2011-02](#) and [No. 2011-03](#).

We continue to receive questions about meetings related to the organization of class/program composition and formation and the supervision of students as a designated essential service. This update provides further information about the LRB's decision regarding those two matters.

### Meetings Related to the Organization of Class/Program Composition and Formation

In B132/2011 the LRB ordered BCTF members to participate in the normal manner in the class/program composition and formation at the beginning of the school year until September 10, 2011 for elementary students and until September 17, for secondary students. In Update No. 2011-02 we noted that this included communications and meetings with the principal for the purpose of preparing for the upcoming year. Please be advised that such communication and meetings of teachers with principals is for the **sole** purpose of organizing class/program composition and formation and not for other purposes or general preparations for the upcoming year.

We have also had inquiries from Districts regarding what time lines should be implemented for "middle schools". That circumstance is not specifically addressed in the LRB order and we suggest that Districts discuss the appropriate date with their local union.

### Supervision of Students

In its 2011 decision, the LRB referred to its previous decisions from 2001, [BCLRB B417/2001](#) and [BCLRB No. B431/2001](#) for additional direction for obtaining local agreements on supervision. BCLRB No. B431/2001 provides some guidance on reduction of supervision requirements that Districts may want to consider. Examples of such reductions include:

- Cancelling recess, subject to considerations of whether it is in the best interests of students and teachers to cancel recess due to behavioural problems that may result in the classroom as a result of lack of exercise and energy release and/or disruption of bus pick up schedules.
- Restricting access to certain areas of playgrounds, subject to safety concerns.

- Staggering recess times, depending on schedules of staff that will be providing supervision.

It should be noted that the LRB has not ordered that these options be implemented; however Districts should consider if any of these options are appropriate for their various educational facilities in order to reduce the requirements for supervision.

If you have any questions regarding essential services, please contact:

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