



**TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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**For Immediate Release
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REMINDER OF NO BUSING SERVICE IN MAT-SU VALLEY

Sunday, March 1, 2026, Teamsters Local 959 would like to remind families of the Mat-Su Valley that school bus services will not be operating tomorrow through the foreseeable future. After a federal mediator had scrambled to make themselves available days before the looming strike, and the Teamsters negotiation team was ready to work through the weekend, Durham declined to participate.

The unfair labor practice (ULP) strike will begin tomorrow as the school bus workers will establish a picket line outside the Durham bus barn. To reiterate the 'notice of impasse', Durham has engaged in unlawful conduct by failing to bargain in good faith, delaying or canceling negotiations, failing to provide requested information, and bargaining regressively. Negotiations have been ongoing with little progress since June 2025.

Some issues surrounding the negotiations include:

- The use of Hire Right services and its ongoing, overbearing, and costly requirements.
- Fleet readiness and mechanical safety for all buses to be road-ready and able to service all routes.
- Adherence to district-required training and check-rides for new hires and drivers before allowing them to operate on the roads with students onboard.
- Aligning Mat-Su School District Pupil Transportation procedures regarding student contact in the collective bargaining agreement.

Many other issues remain open and will require Durham to negotiate in good faith for progress to be made. Unfortunately, Durham has not displayed any urgency in finding any common ground to end the impasse. Durham already gave Teamsters its "Final Offer" in January. Our members have opted to strike as a very last resort, in the hope that it will break the parties' impasse and get Durham to take their bargaining demands seriously. Teamsters Local 959 remains ready to negotiate today, tomorrow, and any day to come to an agreement that benefits our members and the families of the Mat-Su School District.

For any questions or press inquiries, contact Local 959's Political Coordinator, Patrick FitzGerald, at (907) 230-8809.

