



**TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Gary Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer

520 E. 34th Ave., Suite 102, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Phone (907) 751-8500 • Fax (907) 751-8599

**For Immediate Release
May 1, 2026**

**Contact:
Patrick FitzGerald (907) 230-8809**

TEAMSTERS RATIFY CONTRACT, RETURN TO WORK, AND WILL START SERVICES NEXT WEEK

Friday, May 1, 2026: Striking members of Teamsters Local 959 held a vote on Thursday to ratify a contract offer that was negotiated between the Teamster bargaining committee and Durham School Services. A contract explanation meeting with the bargaining unit was held to present the endorsed agreement, which addressed key components that were in dispute and led to the strike.

Of the many issues included in the contract, increased safety inspection time, ensuring reliable access to necessary equipment, and new mandatory training for new hires to ride with veteran drivers before transporting children by themselves, and new mandatory chain-up training for all employees. Durham will also have to conduct check-off rides, aligning the contract language with district and community expectations.

This agreement created a reimbursement mechanism for employer-required subjective medical screening. The HireRight issue has been addressed by establishing a reimbursement program for medical exams needed that are ABOVE AND BEYOND what is required by Federal and State Department of Transportation standards.

The company has committed to working collaboratively with the Union to improve and maintain the fleet readiness of available buses. This will help ensure there are enough buses and drivers to fill all routes and operate efficiently when a bus is unexpectedly down.

After the ratification vote, Teamsters Local 959 relayed the results to the Mat-Su School District and Durham School Services, informing them that the school bus workers will be returning to work. The district decided to have two in-service and training days on Friday, May 1, and Monday, May 4, for preparation and training purposes. Regular bus routes begin on Tuesday, May 5th.

Once again, Teamsters Local 959 would like to greatly thank all those who stood with us through this labor dispute and all families of the Mat-Su School District for your patience in this matter. We look forward to returning to work and providing buses for the final weeks of school. We worked hard to get a deal done and look forward to serving the community for the remainder of this year and beyond.

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

1453 University Avenue South, Fairbanks, AK 99709 • P (907) 452-2959 • F (907) 450-6181 | 610 Attla Way, Suite 8, Kenai, AK 99611 • P (907) 283-4498 • F (907) 283-8030
306 Willoughby, Juneau, AK 99801 • P (907) 586-3225 • F (907) 586-1227 | 1201 Mill Bay Road, Kodiak, AK 99615 • P (907) 486-8818 • F (907) 486-0080
1529 Homer Spit Road, Suite 1, Homer, AK 99603 • P (907) 226-5151 • F (907) 235-0656

www.akteamsters.com

