



**The Gloucester Public Schools**  
*Every Day Matters, Everybody Belongs*

2 Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
Phone: 978-281-9800

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November 5, 2024

Dear Members of the Gloucester School Community,

This afternoon the Gloucester School Committee petitioned the state Department of Labor Relations to step in to stop a planned illegal strike by the Gloucester Teachers Association, which we believe will significantly disrupt student learning in the coming days.

The School Committee took this step based on clear evidence the GTA plans to vote on this illegal strike as soon as Thursday and begin striking as soon as Friday. We are asking the Department of Labor Relations to step in and stop this illegal action immediately, and allow school to stay open and students to continue learning.

Teachers are essential employees who our children depend on for learning and safety during the school day. An illegal labor action will cause direct harm to students by forcing many to stay home without a parent or guardian able to care for them, removing access to mental health service options, and limiting students' abilities to secure warm meals. Additionally, emergency responders such as the Gloucester Police Department will have to shift substantial resources to manage the public impact of a labor action.

It is our intention that with our legal steps taken today, the School Committee and GTA can return to the bargaining table to find common ground and solutions that reflect the immense respect we have for our educators.

We all want our students to become successful, engaged, lifelong learners who feel a strong sense of belonging. The only way we can achieve that now is through bargaining in good faith.

We will keep you updated in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Clancy  
Chair  
On behalf of the Gloucester School Committee