



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

January 15, 2013

AFC Statement Regarding the Impending NYC School Bus Strike

More than 152,000 New York City students, including 54,000 with special education needs, depend on school buses to get them to their classes each day. In the event of a strike, Advocates for Children of New York (AFC) urges the City to take every possible action to ensure that these students do not become victims of a labor dispute and that they have a safe, alternative way to get to and from school.

For many families, the alternative means of travel put forth already by the Department of Education (DOE) will be inconvenient but manageable. However, for many others, Metrocards and reimbursement for carfare are not viable options. Public transportation may not be feasible as a result of a student's disability, and families who need a car service or taxi to get their children to school may not have the financial means or flexibility to pay carfare upfront and wait weeks for reimbursement. For children who use wheelchairs or have complicated medical needs, private car services may not be able to accommodate their disabilities. Additionally, families with more than one child to drop off and pick up at school and jobs to maintain may find it impossible to be in multiple places at one time.

We call on the City to develop alternatives for these families and to provide accurate, timely information about rights, resources, and options to parents of all students, including those with special education needs, as we enter what could be a prolonged strike.

Please contact Kim Sweet, Kim Madden, or Maggie Moroff for interview opportunities at 212- 822-9509.