

Teachers Complete Seventh Day of Their Strike; OUSD Reveals Impacts That Could Follow if Strike Continues Into Second to Last Week of School Year

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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Friday, May 12, 2023

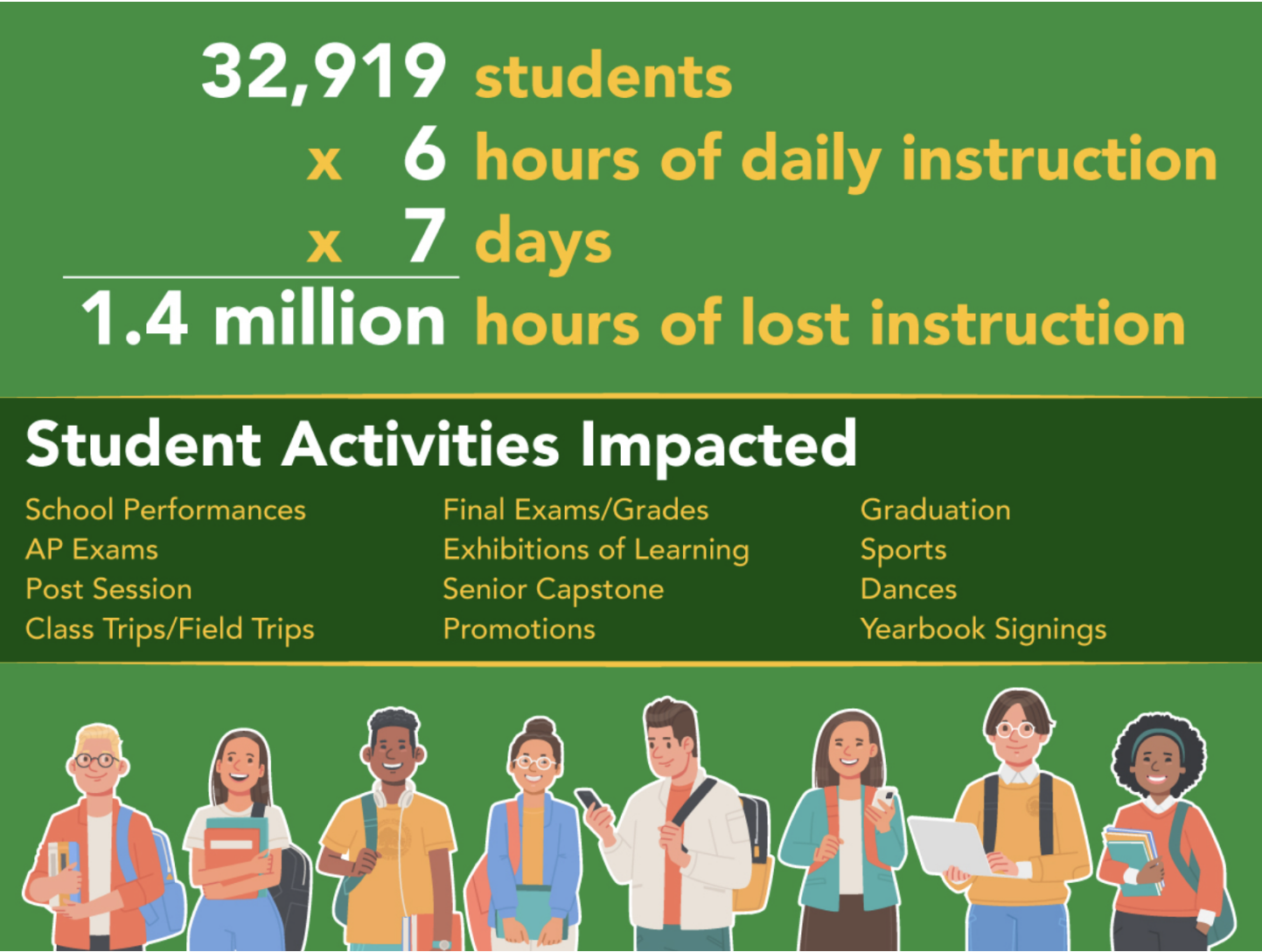
Dear Oakland Unified Community,

The seventh day of the teachers' strike is now over, and it's no secret this action has hurt students, families and staff across Oakland. **Now that we have just nine days left in the school year, and our first high school graduation is set for a week from Monday, on May 22, the stakes of the strike are even higher.** Because of the negative impacts of this strike, the immediate future of our seniors is at an uncertain point. Their capstone senior projects, finals, credit recovery, even their graduations, college admissions and financial aid are all threatened.

Here is a message from Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell who sums up what is truly at risk if the teachers' strike continues next week.



The teachers’ strike started before an impasse was declared by either side. Here are **the details of all that is now in doubt** because of the strike.



Here is the same graphic in multiple languages. And here is a detailed list of all that could be impacted by a strike that continues into the week of May 15 and perhaps through the end of the school year.

- **Whole District Impacts**

- There is a significant impact on the overall academic progress we are experiencing across our District. Students, families, and staff have worked hard to focus on lifting student achievement levels, especially due to the impact of school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Important end of the year local and state assessments are being impacted. Everyone is looking forward to celebrating student academic progress and not having the data impedes our ability to know how students are doing academically.
- We are currently facing sanctions for high schools that did not participate at a 95% SBAC State assessment participation level last year, 2022.
- Many students access our school nutrition program. The lack of access to daily nutrition has impacted students who rely on schools for consistent and healthy meals.
- Milestone activities are on hold and likely significantly altered due to access to school buildings. Students are missing out on special moments in their lives due to the strike.
- There is significant planning and school funding invested in study tours/field trips/career exploration visits and end of year events. Schools may not be able to recoup the funding they have invested.
- Middle School:
 - Middle school students began sixth grade during the pandemic and remained in distance learning during their first year.
 - The second year of middle school was punctuated with interruptions caused by COVID-19.
 - The last year of middle school has been disrupted due to the current strike.

- **Grades and Graduation**

- Students will not receive final grades and those grades will not be entered into OUSD's student information system.
- Without final grades, schools will be required to assess student eligibility for participation in graduation ceremonies with incomplete information.
- Students will not be able to make up work or receive a final grade for classes that they need to pass to graduate.
- The Capstone/Senior Project is an OUSD board-approved graduation requirement. Many, if not most students, will be unable to present that Senior Project, something that is a culmination of months of work.

- **Credit Recovery**

- Credit recovery has been and will continue to be on hold during the strike.
- Students cannot take formal assessments necessary for credit recovery programs without their teacher of record proctoring the exams.
- Students will not know whether they need to repeat a class next year or will not earn credit needed to graduate this year.

- **Summer School/Summer Academic Recovery**

- Without final grades, OUSD cannot determine which Seniors need to take courses during summer school to recover courses towards A-G and graduation.
- Without final grades, OUSD cannot determine which students in 9th-11th grade need summer school to earn credits towards graduation.
- Without final grades, students who were initially assigned summer school by their school counselors may not necessarily need to make up the course(s). Thus, they will be going to summer school unnecessarily, taking up seats that should be given to other seniors and/or juniors in need of credit recovery.

- **College Acceptance and Enrollment**

- UC HS Final Transcripts Due: July 1, 2023
- CSU HS Final Transcripts Due: July 15, 2023
- Without final grades, students may not be able to fully demonstrate that they have met the admission requirements and their acceptance to college may be rescinded.
- Students are unable to receive support necessary to understand the financial aid and college enrollment process. (For instance, OUSD high schools need to verify graduates directly to the CA Student Aid Commission to clear students to receive Cal Grant awards.)
- Schools cannot hold “decision days,” which often happen in May, that celebrate students’ post secondary plans and college choices.

The bottom line is that our students need to be back in school, our seniors more than anyone because so much of their immediate future is dependent on having their final grades completed on time so they are ready to take the next step in their education and careers.

As a result of the District’s multi-year efforts to improve its fiscal reality, OUSD has put forth a robust compensation plan for teachers and all members of OEA. We are continuing to negotiate with OEA in good faith around their proposals to increase staffing and the District’s proposal to provide intervention and enrichment to elementary school students.

We implore OEA to end the strike, get our students back in school and our seniors ready for graduation, and then, we can work on the common good together.

In community,

OUSD News