

President PHILIP RUMORE



November 24, 2014

MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: Absence Due to Severe Weather Conditions

BUFFALO TEACHERS
FEDERATION, INC

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Article XXXIII of the contract “Absence Due to Severe Weather and Other Emergency Conditions” covers what we call “Snow Days”.

It states:

- A. Teachers shall receive pay for absence on account of abnormally severe weather conditions in the Buffalo Metropolitan Area when certified by the Principal or Division Head and approved by the Superintendent of Schools.
- B. The official closing of schools by the Superintendent of Schools on account of severe weather or other emergency conditions shall not result in a loss of pay.
- C. Any teacher who is on sick leave with pay when schools are closed due to severe weather or other conditions shall receive the same pay as the teacher would have received if schools had been in session on such days. No deduction from days of sick allowance shall be made for such days.

In short, if you either attempted to come to work or for obvious reasons could not get to work, you should notify your administrator that you will not be at work. When you return, fill out the short term leave form indicating that you attempted to go to school and were unable to do so because of impassable road conditions or, for example, roads were closed preventing you from getting to work.

Schools being closed in your area is not usually sufficient but can be used to demonstrate the hazardous conditions.

Such days should not be deducted from your sick or personal days. If day(s) are deducted or your short term leave is denied, call BTF and we will grieve it. We have been very successful pursuing such grievances.

Hopefully, the District will not give anyone problems. If they do, call us.

Most importantly, don't take any chances and stay safe.

For teachers who encountered severe flooding or similar problems, NYSUT, our state affiliate, has an established Disaster Relief Fund. NYSUT President Magee has stated said funds will be available to NYSUT members affected by the storm. For information, go to www.nysut.org/disasterrelief.

Finally, as you know, Superintendents have the authority to count approximately 3-4 days of teacher attendance without students, as days of student attendance. These days are usually for staff updates, etc. Hopefully, the Superintendent will exercise this option.

We will keep you advised as we proceed.

PR:su