

Local 1181-1061
Amalgamated Transit Union A.F.L.-C.I.O.



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ATTENTION
MEMBERS OF ATU LOCAL 1181-1061
CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 UPDATE
APRIL 6, 2020

While most of our New York City Department of Education members are receiving 85% of their salary and will continue to receive their medical benefits (as I have stated in my video messages located on our website), some of us may have to temporarily collect unemployment.

We have learned that the New York City Department of Education has subsequently decided not to pay the 85% as they cited the two bids which were issued in 1994. Some of that work is operated by Boro, Lorissa, Bobby's and All American. As a result, layoffs will occur from the bottom of the respective seniority lists as follows :

Boro 60 drivers
Lorissa 58 drivers
Bobby's 83 drivers
All American 71 drivers

All of these members are eligible for unemployment and at the end of this report there will be information which can help you apply for medical benefits through the State of New York.

If you file before April 15, you and your families will be covered as of April 1.

School-age non-EPP New York City Department of Education (B-Alert, GVC School Age, Leesel, Selby School Age and Phillips) have also been affected by layoffs (*note that the Drivers for these companies who won bids in 2013 will continue to receive 85% and their medical benefits), however the Attendants, by virtue of a change issued by the Department of Education in New York City, will be laid off and eligible for unemployment. Those Attendants may also use the information supplied by this update to receive medical benefits in New York State.

I have also been informed as of this update that All American and B-Alert are both looking into business loans by virtue of "The Care Act" passed by the Federal Government last week. These companies are considered to be in the "Small Business" category as they have 500 or less employees. These owners may be eligible for this loan which will be forgiven by following the guidelines. If the owners find that they are eligible, which we believe they can be, their employees' salaries and medical benefits will remain intact. We will absolutely keep on top of this as it develops.

All that being said, this Union and our lobbyists have been in contact with City Hall and the Department of Education and we continue to work on your behalf. Our goal is to reverse this, avoid any lay-offs of our members, and to have everyone receive 85% of their wages as well as all of their benefits. We are also still pushing for 100% if possible. We are still fighting for you!

Easter Week

Members working for an EPP/ Legacy company will receive their Easter adjustment check if they are entitled to it by contract, at 100% and will be eligible to collect unemployment for the week of Easter when school would normally be closed. The following week they will go back on 85% of pay and come off of unemployment.

Any Company whose contract requires Easter Adjustment pay for Easter Week and does not pay; we will take them to arbitration immediately!

School Districts

As of this update, the following school districts are still paying their employees and our members. These are the school districts which we have a contract with the school district itself. Those school districts are: Floral Park, Elmont, Franklin Square, Croton Harmon, Clarkstown and Half Hollow Hills. These school districts will also maintain medical benefits.

Royal Coach

Our members at Royal Coach are currently being paid and the Somers School District has agreed to continue to pay the company.

Private School Bus Companies on Long Island

Pierce Coach Lines

Most of their school districts are paying them and they are paying our members.

WE Transport

Because of a failure of the school districts to pay private companies, we have been notified that 70% of the employees of WE Transport will be laid off and eligible for unemployment. The Techs in the shop are on an abbreviated schedule. That being said, some of the school districts contracted with WE Transport are paying the company and those employees who serviced those school districts, will be receiving pay and medical benefits. The company has advised me that they will be calling those employees to notify them as to who is laid off and who is working.

First Student

First Student also has laid off all of its employees and they are eligible for unemployment. They can also apply for medical benefits through the State of New York.

WE Transport, Pierce Coach Lines, First Student, the unions (ATU 1181, TWU 252 and 100, and Teamsters 1205, UCIW 91) and the NYS Contractors Association along with the Long Island Federation of Labor (of which I am a member) and the New York State AFL-CIO (of which I am an Executive Council Member), are all fighting in Albany with the help of our lobbyists to have the school districts pay their respective companies.

We have been told that the school districts attorneys have advised them that they cannot pay the school bus companies because the districts fear that may not be reimbursed by the State Education Department (SED).

It is our understanding that if the companies put all of the school bus workers “on call for duty” that the SED should then be allowed to pay the companies. After participating in a conference call on Friday April 3, 2020 with all the parties involved, we have drafted a letter asking the Governor to give some clarity on this issue so that all of our Long Island school bus workers can receive their pay and benefits. We are continuing to fight for you.

MTA Bus

On behalf of myself and the Executive Board, we would like to thank our members in Spring Creek at our MTA location for the work they are doing out on the front lines. They are working every day putting their lives and their families in danger of contracting this terrible virus. To their credit, they courageously get on those buses every day and bringing people where they need to be. Spring Creek is on an abbreviated schedule and they are still working. We applaud you!

Access-a-Ride/ Para Transit

In addition, 70% our Para Transit Drivers, Quality Control and Mechanics in Maggie’s, GVC II, MVP and MVT are out there working every day. These companies have an average of 30% layoffs. Those who are laid off are also eligible for unemployment. Again, on behalf of myself and the Executive Board, we commend our access-a-ride members for the work they are doing. They go out there every day doing their jobs, putting themselves and their families in danger of contracting this horrific virus. We applaud you as well!

In closing, I would like to say that I hope that I have given some clarity on every aspect of our union membership. Rest assured that your Executive Board, LI Office Staff and myself are working every day to try and resolve these issues.

We will get through this together. Together we fight! Together we win!

**God bless ATU Local 1181
God bless you and your families
Stay safe and stay healthy!**

In Solidarity,



**Michael Cordiello
President/Business Agent
and the Executive Board
of ATU Local 1181-1061**