

Tell Saskatchewan Rivers School Board to Maintain Current Staffing Levels



CUPE Local 4195 is very concerned about Saskatchewan Rivers School Board's recent decision to lay off all support staff and hire them back at reduced hours.

This decision means that our students will lose over 8,000 hours of direct support from educational assistants. This decision means that the libraries in our schools will have two weeks less of staffing. **The total impact on staffing levels will be over 11,000 lost hours** for many support classifications, including social workers, office administration, language assistants, cooks, and educational assistants.

We feel strongly that all the hours we work make a difference to students and to providing a quality learning environment. There is simply no way you can slash the staff dealing with special needs students, slash the workers keeping our schools clean and safe and running smoothly, and expect the same quality of education for our kids. **This reduction will be felt in the classroom, and that is unacceptable.**

Furthermore, a reduction in hours means a reduction of pay for our members, who are the lowest paid in the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division. The division just signed a new contract with a wage increase only to cut back our hours. This will leave members with less money in their pockets when they were expecting a bump up in their income.

If there has to be budget cuts, cuts should start at the top with positions that will not have a direct impact on students. Budget considerations should never come before the rights to a quality education for our children, especially children with diverse needs.

Please contact your school board trustee and let him or her know you have concerns about the decision to cut back staffing hours. Our children deserve full staffing levels every day of the year.