



Office of the Director

*Chair: Goronwy Price
CEO/Director of Education: Anthony Stack*

To: All Teachers and School Administrators
From: Tony Stack, CEO/Director of Education
Subject: Teacher Contact with Students
Date: March 19, 2020

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is providing the following guidance for teachers as a result of in-class instruction being suspended indefinitely:

You are permitted to work from any location within the province. This means that if you are living in areas for work purposes, you are not required to remain in your school communities as long as you are able to work from an alternate location. If you are making such arrangements, please ensure you tell your administrator and advise how you can be contacted.

The COVID-19 situation continues to unfold in our province and country. While the District will work to provide as much notice ahead of any plans to resume classes, everyone should be prepared to return to work on short notice.

For now, contact with students and families will not be for assessment and evaluation purposes. The intent is to maintain relationships and to reassure students and families of continued support from the education system. We expect teachers to continue to be in regular weekly contact with their students and families during normal school hours. This will look different depending on the grade level and families involved. We are encouraging all teacher-home communications to be through email or other electronic means. Teachers will still be the conduit through which students or parents seek support (e.g., guidance services) and it is important to share this information with your school administrator so the District can provide whatever support is possible. The District will be providing educators further guidance and other resources for families in the coming days.

K-9 Classes

District Programs staff will provide access to primary, elementary, and intermediate resources for students to engage in learning activities. However, there is no expectation that these be assessed in any way by teachers. There is no expectation that teachers try to recreate or complete specific curriculum outcomes or courses with students or create expectations for families to deliver curriculum or hire tutors for students to continue their studies.

We will be communicating to K-9 students and their families that all students will be progressing to the next grade level no matter what happens with the remainder of the school year. Teachers will respond to learners' needs when this academic year resumes or the new school year begins.

While these are difficult times, there is an opportunity here to experiment and innovate in a virtual non-graded learning environment. Please try to share your experiences and your resources with your colleagues. Perhaps we can capture some new insights into what works for learners going forward.

High School Courses

We are still discussing the protocols for high school credit courses with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and post-secondary institutions. Hence, further

information will be forthcoming on high school courses. However, we are focussed on ensuring that post-secondary plans of graduating students are not impacted negatively.

Wellness and the Art of the Possible

We are very conscious of the fact that every learner's and every teacher's current situation is unique. The personal dynamic with respect to family responsibilities and health situations will vary. Our collective focus for our learners and our staff should be on maintaining, and even strengthening, relationships.

I am concerned about the wellness of all students and staff as well as their families. We do not need to be stressed about trying to replicate what we achieve in the conventional learning environment. Let's focus on doing what we can, while looking after our own health, supporting each other, and attending to those in need around us.

As you know, this is an unprecedented event. Allow me this opportunity to thank you all in advance for your professionalism, dedication, continued commitment to students and, most importantly, your willingness to adapt under these extraordinary circumstances. I especially want to highlight my appreciation for all our school administrators, for their incredible fortitude and leadership. Take care.