

MEMO

To: Administrators/Teachers
From: Tony Stack, CEO/Director of Education
Subject: Next Steps
Date: April 2, 2020

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has announced there will be no public exams this year. NLESD is also announcing that there will be no intermediate or high school exams in any course this year. As such, the District is now able to further plan to address marks for all high school students (Levels 1-3) for the 2019-20 academic year.

Current Grades/Report Cards for High School

- As a first step, all high school teachers will review students' performance up to and including March 13, 2020 and, using their professional judgement, arrive at a current grade for each student enrolled in their courses.
- This should be communicated to the school administration by April 9, 2020. Teachers who are experiencing difficulty in finalizing marks should contact their school administration for further direction and assistance.
- Principals will communicate this current grade to families in report card format by April 22, 2020, with paper or electronic copies to be shared with the regional office and available for future filing in the student record at the school.
- If schools are able to reopen for in-class instruction prior to the end of the academic year, any curricular outcomes assessed at that time may be utilized to improve a student's mark.
- While a current grade will be generated, learning will continue. Teachers will continue to exercise their professional judgement to assess student engagement and progress with online learning opportunities, and will adjust final grades if it is to the student's advantage. The priority focus will be on students who are eligible to graduate this year, and preparing them for post-secondary opportunities.

Next Steps - Student and Staff Engagement for All

- Schools will develop mechanisms for daily checking in with teachers and school staff.
- Schools will develop a system of communication with each student, and a form of checking in daily with each student. This can take many forms, including group emails/texts from teachers to students/parents if they have access to mobile phones.
- All high school teachers will endeavour to make contact with their students and advise that the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) has online learning resources and course materials available to senior high students who are able to access them here: <https://www.cdli.ca/>. Teachers experiencing difficulty contacting their students should notify their school administration for direction and assistance.

Graduating Students

The District is having ongoing discussions with Memorial University and the College of the North Atlantic with regards to flexibility around entrance requirements and their processes for determining scholarship recipients. In the meantime:

- Level 3 students on track to graduate will be eligible to graduate.
- Teachers are expected to direct students to CDLI online resources and provide feedback, guidance, and support to their students accessing the platform, or any other supplementary course materials that the teacher provides. (Note: The District is prioritizing the resolution of access to technology/connectivity issues for graduating students in need).
- Credit Rescue and Credit Recovery options will continue to be available so there is no negative impact on students graduating or transitioning to post-secondary institutions. Teachers will work with students to identify what is required to earn that credit and develop a plan outlining what they need to complete to pass the course.
- Students should continue learning if they are able, and parents should continue to support students if they can. The aim is to address any gaps in learning so as to best position students for graduation and post-secondary pursuits.

High School

- The [Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation \(CDLI\)](#) provides access to high school course materials.
- Teachers will provide feedback, guidance, and support to their students accessing the CDLI platform or any other supplementary course materials that the teacher provides.
- The District also has its own Mathematics YouTube channel with a variety of instructional videos and other resources available for Grades 7 to Level 3. High school resources include [Math 1201](#); [Math 2201](#) and [Math 3201](#).
- Teachers can also connect with students through various online platforms, such as Google Classroom and Google Meet, a video conferencing tool.

Intermediate

- Teachers can use material on the [Learning at Home: Good at Learning - Good at Life](#) website to support continued learning.
- There are also Grades 7-9 mathematics resources available through the District's Mathematics YouTube channel ([Grade 7](#); [Grade 7 \(French\)](#); [Grade 8](#); [Grade 8 \(French\)](#); [Grade 9](#), and [CDLI](#) (Grade 9 Mathematics only).
- Teachers can also connect with students through various platforms such as Google Classroom and Google Meet.

Primary/Elementary

- The [Learning at Home: Good at Learning - Good at Life](#) website will be updated on an ongoing basis with additional resources available for learning at home.
- Teachers can also connect with students at this level through online platforms such as Google Classroom or Google Meet, or with parents/guardians via email.

All Students

- The District has a variety of online resources available to families through its website, including [Code to Learn](#) resources, [Internet and Social Media \(ISMS\)](#) resources, [Health and Wellness](#) resources, and [Mental Health Resources](#).

Other Activities

Equity of Access - The District is in the process of determining the need for computer hardware and connectivity for students without access. While observing public health direction, the distribution of hardware will occur and we are exploring options to provide connectivity for those who need it. For students with personal and/or health circumstances which prevent them from engaging in learning at this time, learning will resume once classes resume. Students and families will be reassured that teachers will respond to individual student learning needs once classes resume.

Guidance Services - Guidance services will be available to all students. Students will be able to schedule individual service and there will be opportunities for students to join group sessions based on areas of interest.

Professional Learning - Professional learning opportunities will be available for teachers to support them in operating in a virtual learning environment for students. This will be new for many teachers, so District staff will support them and offer guidance. Planning for professional learning for Education Action Plan Phase 3 schools is also currently underway.

Educational Facilities - Educational facilities are being made available to health care and community partners, where required.

Conclusion

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District will support the continuation of learning for our students. We are improving our ability to operate from a distance learning perspective. However, this is new territory for many, and we recognize that replicating what occurred in a face-to-face classroom environment has its limitations.

First and foremost, the health and well-being of the families of our students and staff is paramount. We are cognizant of the personal circumstances of families who may be dealing with any number of challenges associated with the COVID-19 situation. Together, we will support students wherever they are in their learning journey when this health emergency ends.

Once again I thank you for your continued professionalism, dedication, and willingness to adapt and adjust to support our students and families during this pandemic event.