

Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development
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Date: April 2, 2020
To: Parents, Guardians
From: Dominic Cardy, Minister
Subject: Continuity of Learning Plan

Dear parents, guardians and families,

We have experienced challenging weeks together and shown our resolve to unite as New Brunswickers. Our common goal is to flatten the curve by controlling the spread of the virus. Above all, we encourage you and your families to continue following the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer and the provincial government.

Please be assured that support and guidance is on its way to assist in keeping your child's learning on track. Materials will be shared with you weekly, beginning April 6th to 13th. If your child is receiving support from additional departments or agencies, please follow up with those services individually.

Your Child's Progress

April report cards are postponed indefinitely. Students who were on track to move to the next grade level in January will do so.

Provincial Assessments

The remaining 2019-20 provincial assessments will not take place, except for the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interviews. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is developing a process to offer this assessment to interested students in an online or telephone format on a voluntary basis.

School Support Connections

1. Starting this week, each school district will announce methods for students to remotely access guidance counsellors and Child and Youth teams.
2. Within the next week, your child's teacher, or a teacher from their school, will be reaching out to check in and to share the framework of their school's home learning plans.
3. Weekly check-ins will maintain social connections to the school and provide support around the home learning material.
4. Schools will work with families of students with [Personalized Learning Plans - Adjusted (PLP-ADJ) Learning Plans – Individualized (PLP-I)] to identify how parents can best support their child in the current situation.

Next Steps for Continued Learning

Families are adapting to changes at home and the impacts of COVID-19. We understand they may not be able to consistently support the suggested guidelines below. That said, family encouragement will have a significant impact on the success of home learning. Parents will be asked to play a key role in ensuring students dedicate the recommended time to home learning options.

Home Learning Options

Kindergarten to Grade 2

Home learning options to support literacy and numeracy outcomes will be made available online to families.

Families are encouraged to:

- support their child to complete provided options for an **average of 1 hour per day**;
- read aloud with their children daily; and
- consider daily physical activity and free play as important parts of their child's mental health and skill development.

Grades 3 to 5

Home learning options to support literacy, numeracy, and science outcomes will be made available online to families.

Families will be encouraged to:

- have children participate in these options, to the extent possible, an **average of 1 hour per day** (5 hours per week); and
- encourage children to participate in a daily minimum of 30 minutes of reading and 30 minutes of physical activity.

Grades 6 to 8

Home learning options to support literacy, numeracy, science, and social studies outcomes will be made available online to families.

Families will be encouraged to:

- have students participate in these options, to the extent possible, an **average of 2 hours per day** (10 hours per week); and
- encourage students to participate in a daily minimum of 30 minutes of reading and 30 minutes of physical activity.

Grades 9 to 10

Home learning options to support provincial literacy, numeracy, science, social studies, and personal skill development outcomes will be made available online to families.

Families will be encouraged to:

- have students complete these options for a **minimum of 2.5 hours per day** (12.5 hours per week); and
- encourage students to participate daily minimum of 30 minutes of reading and 30 minutes of physical activity.

Grades 11 to 12

Education content will focus on core high school courses, including: Math, English, Second Language, Science/Technology, History/Social Studies.

- Students should be encouraged to complete these options for a **minimum of 2.5 hours per day** (total of 12.5 hours per week);
- Students should be encouraged to participate in a daily minimum of 30 minutes of reading and 30 minutes of physical activity;
- Students who are currently enrolled in online courses offered from within NB, or as dual credits with other institutions, will be encouraged to continue as their personal circumstances permit.
- Some schools may be able to offer other online course to further the learning of students who are willing and able to participate. In these instances, principals will have the option to award a credit for these course options.

Graduation

- All Grade 12 students who had at least 12 credits as of January will graduate in June 2020 and receive a high school diploma.
- Transcripts will indicate the student was “enrolled,” in current semester courses, and they will all count towards the required number of courses for graduation completion.
- Grade 12 students who plan to graduate but have not passed the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) will not be required to complete this assessment and the transcript will indicate that the ELPA was “not required.”

No decisions have been made at this time regarding graduation ceremonies or events related to graduation. Decisions on such activities will be made in due time, based on direction from the Office of Public Health.

The New Brunswick government will work with post-secondary institutions so this interruption in formal schooling does not prevent students from being eligible for admission to post-secondary studies in the upcoming school year.

Thank you for your patience as we work together to support your child(ren)’s continued learning and well-being. As we prepare to share material more specific to your child’s grade, please visit the Family Resource Page to see helpful materials to support your child.

The Family Resource page can be found at:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/learning_at_home.html



Dominic Cardy
Minister