



Stu Henry
Superintendent of Schools
HIGH SCHOOL PARENT LETTER

March 20, 2020

Dear High School Students and Families,

RE: Continuing student learning in high school

Earlier today the Alberta Education provided clarification regarding **continuity of learning for all students** ([See news release here](#)). This ensures a consistent approach across the province and throughout Red Deer Public Schools. These new guidelines are in place to direct how students will learn while in-school classes are cancelled due to the provincial health emergency.

We want to share with you specific direction that has been provided for high school students.

Provincial assessments:

- All Grade 9 provincial achievement tests and Grade 12 **diploma exams are cancelled in April and June 2020.**
- Under special circumstances, students can request to write a diploma exam. Students wishing to do so should speak to their teacher and school administrator.
- NOTE: We contacted Red Deer College asking how they would determine admission to programs for those students graduating this year. Admission will be based on final teacher awarded marks in courses required for admission. It will be important for students to be diligent in their studies to meet entrance requirements. Further details will be coming from Red Deer College. Students applying to other post-secondary programs should contact those institutions regarding their policies.

Continuity of Learning

To identify what content needs to be delivered, teachers will evaluate curricular outcomes that have not yet been covered, prioritize remaining outcomes based on what is manageable for students working from home, and will plan specific tasks, assessment and projects for students. Content delivery is broken down as follows:

- Grade 9
 - Education content will focus on **core** mathematics, language/literacy, science and social studies curriculum outcomes.
 - Teachers will assign an average of **10 hours of work per student per week**, and will be expected to work with their students and parents on the delivery of these materials.
- Grades 10-12
 - Education content will focus on specified and core **courses required for high school graduation** requirements, including language (English, French and French language arts), social studies, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics.

- Content from other courses will be delivered where possible, and accommodations for students unable to complete courses are in place.
- Teachers will assign an average of **3 hours of work per course per week**, and will be expected to work with their students and parents on the delivery of these materials.

Grade progression and report cards

- Every student will receive final grades and will receive a report card, appropriate to their grade level.
- Teachers will be responsible for **assessing a student's progress and assigning a final grade**.
- All students who were on track to progress to the next grade will move on.
- Where possible, schools will work with high school students to **complete their courses to the best of their ability, providing a final mark and awarding credits**. If a student is unable to complete a course that would have allowed them to progress to the next grade, principals have the ability to award credits to ensure student progression.

High school diploma criteria

- Students **on track to receive 100 or more credits** will still be eligible to graduate and receive a high school diploma.
- Principals have the ability to award up to 15 credits to students in Grade 12 whose program has been negatively impacted by class cancellations.
- For any courses that are started, schools will complete them with the student to the best of their ability, **provide a final mark and award credits**.
- If the student is unable to complete a course that would have led them to achieving a high school diploma, such as a work experience or a career and technology studies course, principals have the ability to award credits to ensure the student graduates.
- ***If students have specific questions about their particular graduation requirements and status, please contact the school who will connect you with the right person.***

Let's keep students learning... Red Deer Public Schools is committed to our students continuing to learn and achieve in their courses. While the Alberta Education needs to accommodate students while schools are closed, learning continues. It is still important that students are engaged in learning, earning marks and learning the content and outcomes in their courses to succeed in the next stages in their learning journey. This is not just about achieving a high school diploma, but also the grades and knowledge that are essential for your future. We encourage students and families to be committed to learning and doing the very best you can in the current context. Our teachers are fully committed to helping you achieve your very best.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the administration at your school.

Sincerely,

Stu Henry

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Superintendent of Schools

Continuing student learning

March 20, 2020

New guidelines are in place to direct how students will learn while in-school classes are cancelled due to the provincial health emergency.

Government has worked with the Alberta School Boards Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Association of Independent Schools & Colleges of Alberta to identify how to continue teacher-directed learning for students across Alberta.

This approach was developed with a focus on the safety of our staff and students, ensuring resources continue to flow to the education system and providing boards with the flexibility required to meet the unique needs of their students.

“I want to thank every Albertan involved in our province’s education system. Everyone has come together to chart a path forward as part of our COVID-19 response – teachers, support staff, superintendents, administrators, elected trustees, parents, education associations, the provincial government and many others. It is important that Albertans know that we are all working towards the same goal – to provide the best possible learning situation for our students during this very challenging and unprecedented time.”

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

Continuity of student learning and content delivery

For all kindergarten to Grade 12 students, school authorities will offer at-home learning opportunities, either through online means or through other accommodations, such as course packages and telephone check-ins. Government expects that every student, regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic status, will continue to learn while in-school classes across the province are cancelled. This includes students in public, separate, Francophone, charter and independent schools, and Indigenous students attending provincial schools.

Related information

[COVID-19 info for Albertans](#)

Media inquiries

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Press Secretary, Education

To identify what content needs to be delivered, teachers will evaluate curricular outcomes that have not yet been covered, prioritize remaining outcomes based on what is manageable for students working from home, and will plan specific tasks and projects for students.

Content delivery for each grade is broken down as follows:

Kindergarten – Grade 3

- Education content will focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy outcomes of the provincial curriculum.
- Teachers will assign an average of five hours of work per student per week, and will be expected to work with their students and parents on the delivery of these materials.

Grades 4-6

- Education content will continue to focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy outcomes, and there will be opportunity to incorporate science and social studies outcomes through cross-curricular learning.
- Teachers will assign an average of five hours of work per student per week, and will be expected to work with their students and parents on the delivery of these materials.

Grades 7-9

- Education content will focus on core mathematics, language/literacy, science and social studies curriculum outcomes.
- Teachers will assign an average of 10 hours of work per student per week, and will be expected to work with their students and parents on the delivery of these materials.

Grades 10-12

- Education content will focus on specified and core courses required for high school graduation requirements, including language (English, French and French language arts), social studies, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics.
- Content from other courses will be delivered where possible, and accommodations for students unable to complete courses are in place.

- Teachers will assign an average of 3 hours of work per course per week, and will be expected to work with their students and parents on the delivery of these materials.

Grade progression and report cards

Every student will receive final grades and will receive a report card, appropriate to their grade level. Teachers will be responsible for assessing a student's progress and assigning a final grade. School authorities have committed to ensuring parents are consulted and kept informed of how assessment will be determined in this unique circumstance. All students who were on track to progress to the next grade will.

Where possible, schools will work with high school students to complete their courses to the best of their ability, providing a final mark and awarding credits. If a student is unable to complete a course that would have allowed them to progress to the next grade, principals have the ability to award credits to ensure student progression.

High school diploma criteria

Students on track to receive 100 or more credits will still be eligible to graduate and receive a high school diploma. Principals have the ability to award up to 15 credits to students in Grade 12 whose program has been negatively impacted by class cancellations. For any courses that are started, schools will complete them with the student to the best of their ability, provide a final mark and award credits.

If the student is unable to complete a course that would have led them to achieving a high school diploma, such as a work experience or a career and technology studies course, principals have the ability to award credits to ensure the student graduates.

Provincial assessments

All Grade 6 and 9 provincial achievement tests and Grade 12 diploma exams are cancelled. Under special circumstances, students can request to write a diploma exam. Students wishing to do so should speak to their teacher and school administrator.

Resources for parents

Parents may want to supplement student learning by providing their children with additional resources. The following provincial resources are available to parents:

- [LearnAlberta.ca](https://www.learnalberta.ca): more than 4,000 digital resources aligned with Alberta's K-12 curriculum.
- [My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource](#): provides parents with information specific to each grade level.