

NEWS RELEASE

April 2, 2020

District Outlines Next Steps for High School Students

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is providing information on plans developed to address high school marks for the 2019-20 school year. This follows today's announcement by the Provincial Government that public exams have been cancelled as a result of ongoing efforts to combat the spread of Covid-19.

"We understand and appreciate that students and families have been concerned about options available for high school students, given the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves," said Goronwy Price, Chair of the District's Board of Trustees. "Today's announcement allows the District to move forward with enacting its plans, and to have further discussions with post-secondary institutions and other partners to give people some peace of mind moving forward."

The District announced today:

- There will be no final exams for any intermediate or high school courses this year;
- 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 will be shared with the school Principal and then communicated to students and families no later than April 22;
- The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) has online learning resources and course materials available to senior high school students who are able to access them here: <https://www.cdli.ca/>; and
- Schools will be in regular contact with students and teachers will provide feedback, guidance and encouragement to support students as required.

Tony Stack, CEO/Director of Education, said these provisions are being communicated to reduce family anxiety as the global pandemic remains of paramount concern, while also noting that preparations for the resumption of in-school instruction or post-secondary pursuits can continue.

"To be clear, the learning will continue," said Mr. Stack. "But we do not want students and families to be overly-focused on keeping up with academic lessons right now. Our collective focus must be on protecting the health and safety of our students and families in any way we can. I thank everyone for their patience as we work through the many complexities this situation entails. We will continue to provide updated information to families as it becomes available."

Further details on the plan for continued learning are included in the Backgrounder below.

Besides CDLI materials, additional resources for all students are available through the NLESD's 'Learning at Home' website here: <https://www.nlesd.ca/programs/learningathome.jsp>. This site will be updated with further resources in the days and weeks ahead.

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BACKGROUND

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District has announced ‘next steps’ with regards to efforts to support continued learning during the COVID-19 health emergency.

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.
- Schools will communicate this current grade to families in report card format by April 22, 2020.
- 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. (Note: The District is prioritizing the resolution of access to technology/connectivity issues for graduating students in need).

Next Steps - Student Engagement for All

- Schools will be checking in regularly with each student. This can take many forms, including emails/texts from teachers to students/parents if they have access to mobile phones.
- All high school teachers will 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/>.

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 will 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. Again, 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 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. Please 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.

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District will support the continuation of learning for students. However, replicating what occurred in a face-to-face classroom environment has its limitations. In the meantime, parents need not worry that their child will “fall behind”, or be concerned about trying to re-create an instructional environment at home. That is neither practical, nor possible.

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