



# Emergency eLearning Parent Communication

## K to 12 Emergency eLearning Plan

*“Teachers will determine what content to cover based on remaining curricular outcomes and plan tasks that are reasonable to do from home...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.”*

*Alberta Education | March 20, 2020*

### PURPOSE

- ❑ To reduce anxiety and provide clarity to families by communicating the MHPSD Emergency eLearning Plan during the 2020 cancellation of classes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are confident that our plan is in alignment with [Alberta Education Guidelines](#).
- ❑ To emphasize our priority on the social-emotional wellbeing of our students, families and staff.
- ❑ To ensure our students and families know the importance of continuing to engage in learning, as much as is possible.

### FOUNDATIONS

Our priority during these unprecedented times has been to maintain our connections to our students, and in turn their families. We acknowledge that for both our families and staff, these are difficult times and many are struggling with anxiety from change or potential/realized health issues, loss of employment, difficulty finding a new routine, working from home, having to self isolate and trying to support learning from home. This is not easy, and we want families to know that we will work together to be flexible and support our students to be as successful as possible. We encourage our families to access our website [mhpsd.ca](http://mhpsd.ca) for more information on resources to assist.

Our temporary shift to an **Emergency eLearning** environment has been significant. This isn’t something that our staff were trained to do, nor our families expecting to experience. We recognize that although there are some systems and institutions that provide online learning, the Alberta Education system as a whole was not designed to be delivered in this way, nor from a distance. However, to support our health care system and the safety of our students and staff, we have made this transition to emergency eLearning, not to be confused with structured online learning programs. Thank you for your patience as we worked to create a plan that is manageable within the limitations of this new reality; providing direction for our teachers and supports the progression of student learning.



## INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING



**Essential Learning Outcomes:**  
**Teachers will focus on the key understandings and skills that students will need in order to move to the next level of a course or a grade.**

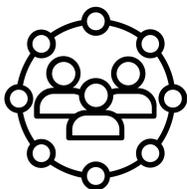
In their communication, Alberta Education has reduced expected instructional hours for all grades/courses. Outside of teacher check-ins with students and their families, these reduced hours include readings, activities, assessments, real time video meets, and any teacher delivery of content. **Teachers have been directed to use their professional judgement to identify essential learning outcomes (understandings and skills) to focus on during the last 3 months of the school year.** Alberta Education has been clear that the entire curriculum may not be covered, and all jurisdictions will need to consider how to support these gaps when planning for instruction for next year.

### *Alberta Education Baseline Instruction*

- *K - Gr. 6: Focus on literacy & numeracy - average of 5 hrs/week*
  - *Gr. 4-6 may be able to include some science and social in cross-curricular activities*
- *Gr. 7 - 9: Focus on English/French Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science - average of 10 hrs/week*
- *Gr. 10 - 12: All courses able to be offered - 3 hrs/week for each course.*

Since teachers are focusing only on the key concepts that impact future learning progressions, it is important for students to continue in their learning as much as they are able. Although all systems will be planning for the same reality for learning next school year, staying connected and continuing to learn now, will give each child the best opportunity moving forward. **We can't predict what the coming months and year look like, but there is a very real chance that a portion(s) of next school year could look very similar to now. If a student doesn't engage during this time, either by choice or by circumstance, this will present some very real challenges for that student's learning.** If your child is struggling to connect during this time, please make sure to consider ways you might rearrange scheduling at home and/or reach out to your child's teacher and school to see what alternatives might be available.

Part of healthy wellbeing is to keep our bodies and minds active; physical wellness is directly connected to emotional wellness. Outside of high school physical activity courses, the Government of Alberta has been reduced down to key academic subjects. However, many of our schools are providing opportunities to engage in movement activities. These are not mandatory but we would encourage families to find ways to stay active, through participating in these resources or choosing activities for themselves.



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We strongly believe that ***schools matter and our staff matters.*** When we are not able to meet in our buildings face to face, we lose fair access to the resources needed to learn. In these times, each family's environment, capacity and access to resources are different. We are working with the TELUS For Good program to support access to wifi and have made our devices available to families who require them. If the current situation is not working, keep communicating with us and we will work together to look for solutions.



## ASSESSMENT DURING EMERGENCY eLEARNING



With the current limitations that remote learning has placed on educators and families, authentic assessment becomes more of a challenge. While teachers are required to assign a grade or achievement indicator, our greatest focus will be on feedback to support students to know what they are doing well and where they might need growth. Teachers will provide criteria (standards or measures that demonstrate a student's understanding) so that students and families will have a clearer idea of what the student is expected to know and do.

In order to gauge what a student knows, teachers may be trying a number of different ways to have direct interaction with a student, which may include recordings, live virtual meetings, and phone calls. The more that you can support your child in attending these opportunities, the more accurately their teacher will be able to know where your child is at.

The reality of the current situation is that for many of our younger students, families have taken on an increased level of support. Please understand that when providing feedback, it is not a final determination of the student's ability or understanding. The goal is for the feedback to allow the student or family to know what the next possible step is to progress in their understanding of that outcome or skill. Students are encouraged to use teacher feedback to improve their understanding or skill and solidify learning.

Alberta Education has tasked teachers with providing a final report and grade. Any assessment offered to students during Emergency eLearning will be explicitly connected to the essential outcomes teachers are addressing for the remainder of the year. In alignment with Alberta Education's cancellation of Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams, no matter what grade, there will not be a cumulative final exam for any students.

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Please click on the link most appropriate for your child's grade level for more information on the plan for the year-end report.

CELP & ELP - [LINK](#)

K - Grade 9 - [LINK](#)

Grade 10-12 - [LINK](#)