

## Response Planning Team Update – March 31, 2020

### Intended for use and distribution to school division personnel

The Response Planning Team update for today is to provide answers to a number of questions submitted either through the sector relations email address [edreferrals@gov.sk.ca](mailto:edreferrals@gov.sk.ca) in the Ministry or through [covid19questions@saskschoolboards.ca](mailto:covid19questions@saskschoolboards.ca).

The purpose of these Q and A's is to provide direction at a provincial level to questions that are being raised by multiple people (teachers, school based administrators, support staff, LEADS members, and trustees). We want to provide common direction, consistent messaging, while respecting the roles and responsibilities of school divisions and directors of education. We know there are numerous unique situations across the various school divisions. It is not the intent of the RPT to be addressing individual or situation specific issues, those will continue to be the responsibility of school divisions.

School division staff should continue to direct individual or situation specific questions to their division's and association's existing communication processes.

We will continue to update and communicate this question and answer list on a regular basis.

### Instructional Services Team: Questions and Answers

1. How often am I expected to be communicating with students, families and my community?
  - a. School divisions will create a supplemental learning plan, containing a communication plan, based on their local context.
2. What do you mean by multiple modes of delivery?
  - a. Multiple modes of delivering instruction include everything from paper to phone calls to sophisticated online environments, etc. School staff are in the best position to understand their local context, the interest and capacity of their students and families.
3. Are we changing our approach to teaching and learning in the province long term?
  - a. No, these are short-term responses that are necessary to make due to our current situation.
4. What if I have a philosophical belief that is different from what I've been directed to do by my school division?
  - a. These are exceptional times, and because of this exceptional measures have been put in place to ensure students are safe and have the opportunity to be successful. Please talk to your principal if you have concerns.
5. Where would I find resources to send out to families?
  - a. School divisions will create a supplemental learning plan that may include resources.

- b. The Emma Stewart Resources Centre at <https://www.stf.sk.ca/professional-resources/emma-stewart-resources-centre> has materials that can be mailed out, and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Professional Learning is developing free remote learning supports for teachers that can be accessed by clicking on the "Planning for Remote Learning" banner at [www.stf.sk.ca](http://www.stf.sk.ca).
  - c. Many school divisions have resources posted on their websites, and the Curriculum website at [www.curriculum.gov.sk.ca](http://www.curriculum.gov.sk.ca) has lists of resources for teachers.
  - d. The Ministry of Education has created a COVID-19 learning resource for teachers and parents. This will be sent out to all school divisions and First Nations education authorities and will be posted on the Curriculum website, as well as on [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca).
6. A student who currently has 55 per cent in a course handed in work prior to March 13, 2020, but the teacher had not yet marked the work. What grade would that student receive?
- a. In this case, the student's grade would start with the grade on March 13, 2020 (i.e., 55 per cent), but once the other work has been marked the student's grade may improve. The grade will not go down. Final grades will be submitted by June 30, 2020.
7. If you have a student with a 75 per cent in a course on March 13, 2020, and they opt to continue with the course, but at the end of the supplemental learning they have a 65 per cent, what would the final grade be?
- a. The final grade would be 75 per cent. Students will not be penalized for committing to continued learning after the March 13, 2020 date.
8. We have hockey players who returned partway through second semester and have no marks in our system. What are their options?
- a. Please follow the process you would normally follow when you have students arriving mid-semester.
  - b. A mark of 50 per cent will not be applied where a student has not completed any outcomes or where the teacher has not evaluated any outcomes as of March 13, 2020. Students will have the opportunity to engage in supplementary learning opportunities to obtain a mark record.
9. Do students currently engaged in apprenticeship have an opportunity to complete their term? Can there be an allowance for a break and return at a later date?
- a. As with other secondary credits, the ministry will accept an apprenticeship credit based on work completed to date. Apprenticeship credits are not granted a numeric grade but rather a pass/fail standing. For those students who pursue apprenticeship as a career pathway, the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) will grant the full 100 hours of trade time for each apprenticeship credit on the ministry transcript. Students will receive the same credit from the SATCC even though they may have completed fewer than 100 hours due to classes ending as a result of the COVID-19 situation.

10. How can we prepare students for post-secondary courses in math and science if we haven't completed the pre-requisite content?
  - a. Students may choose to engage in supplemental learning.
  - b. The Ministry of Education will work with post-secondary institutions to ensure that these extraordinary circumstances do not prevent students from being eligible for admission to post-secondary studies for the upcoming school year.
  - c. Schools and teachers should clearly articulate the dangers of not finishing pre-requisite content for students who are planning to pursue post-secondary studies.
  
11. How much of a course must be completed for a student to receive a credit?
  - a. A minimum final mark record of 50 per cent or greater is to be applied to the outcomes evaluated to date in the subject areas as of March 13, 2020. Students will be afforded the opportunity to improve the mark record through options provided within the capacity of the school division and local school if they choose.
  - b. A mark of 50 per cent will not be applied where a student has not completed any outcomes or where the teacher has not evaluated any outcomes as of March 13, 2020. Students will have the opportunity to engage in supplementary learning opportunities to obtain a mark record.
  
12. Can you provide clarity for expectations for supporting families with distance education?
  - a. As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of delivery as available to them and be supported in doing so.
  - b. Multiple modes of delivering instruction include everything from paper to phone calls to sophisticated online environments, etc. School staff are in the best position to understand their local context, the interest and capacity of their students and families.
  
13. Can a student opt in or out at any time through to the end of June? If a student opts-in and increases their mark, are they then able to opt-out before the end of the year and take this new mark as of May 15, for example? Can students/ families choose to be okay with their mark as it stands right now (either 50% or where it presently sits above that) and then come back in a month and say they would like to improve it? Can they go back and forth?
  - a. Because of the uncertainty of the current situation and local contexts, students will have the opportunity to opt in and out of classes in which they are currently enrolled at any point, within reason, as determined by the local school.
  
14. Not all outcomes can be addressed during this time. How will teachers prioritize which outcomes will be addressed? As our teachers prepare to offer supplementary learning opportunities for students who choose to pursue them, can teachers determine which of their supplementary learning assessments are mandatory in order for students to upgrade their marks? For example, can a teacher mandate that students taking Science 10 complete two units of study and not just one unit to achieve an upgraded mark?
  - a. Teachers will use their professional judgement to determine what should be focused on and what they would need to see demonstrated in order see the outcomes achieved.

- b. School divisions, in consultation with principals and teachers, will determine the appropriate amount of supplemental learning based on the context of their schools, families and students.
15. Do our teachers enter marks into their student information system right now that demonstrate the message as of March 13 - move marks below 50 to 50%, or is this an end of year act?
- a. Entering marks now into the school student information system (PowerSchool, Maplewood, MySchoolSask) is a local decision. However, send final mark records to the Student Data System as per the Registrar's Handbook time line. This will allow for school/ school divisions to update marks, due to supplemental learning opportunities, prior to submitting the marks to SDS.
16. When and how will students be able to access transcripts as scholarship applications require those?
- a. The process of ordering transcripts for scholarships and early admission to post-secondary institutions has not changed. Transcripts orders continue to be processed daily. Official Transcripts of Secondary Level Achievement may be ordered online at [www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/credits-degrees-and-transcripts/requesting-transcripts-for-high-school](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/credits-degrees-and-transcripts/requesting-transcripts-for-high-school).
17. Are students to redo previous assignments as their supplemental learning or can new assignments be marked?
- a. Students who choose to participate in supplemental learning will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their learning. This might mean that they are given a chance to demonstrate improved learning with previously taught content/skills or a chance to demonstrate learning with new content/skills. New assignments can be marked if a student is wanting to participate in supplemental learning.

We thank you for your continued leadership during these challenging times.

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