

NWSD Supplemental Learning Plan

Family Information

April 7



As we begin to move forward with our plan for supplemental learning, we know there are many questions still for families. Below are a series of Frequently Asked Questions, addressing some of the identified common concerns. This list is not exhaustive, but will help provide an overview of the plan for the coming weeks.

In addition, we are sharing the plan and framework for teacher directed learning in Northwest School Division. The plan is broken down into grade-alike groupings, based on the expectations and capabilities of students. The plan outlines expectations for teaching and learning during the school closure.

Teachers will have already made initial contact with most families to check in and begin to share how their classes will function in the coming weeks. While some learning may already be underway, the division plan is to have all classes formally start Monday, April 20, 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. Is school cancelled for the rest of the year?

- Currently, students are no longer attending in-school classes until further notice.
- It is too early to know how long this situation will continue.
- The Chief Medical Health Officer and other government officials are monitoring the situation closely and will make further decisions as necessary.

2. Can my child go to school to pick up materials and personal items?

- We ask for your patience right now as school authorities sort out these details.
- Schools will be in touch, if they have not already, to provide further details on plans to pick up materials and personal items.

3. Are classes continuing online or through other mechanisms?

- Student learning is continuing. We are presently determining how best to support at-home student learning.
- This could include online learning tools or other forms of delivering content and resources.

4. What happens if schools are allowed to resume in-person classes before the end of the school year?

- The province is presently coming up with a plan on how best to manage that transition, if it happens. However, we are not at a point right now to provide any details.
- Currently, students are no longer attending in-school classes until further notice.
- It is too early to know how long this situation will continue.

5. Are you considering extending school into the summer?

- No.

6. Home Schooling Parents: Can home schooling still continue?

- Yes, as long as health recommendations are followed, home schooling can continue. Home-based educators may discontinue schooling for the remainder of the year, but must still turn in appropriate documents to their division.

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- School boards are expected to continue to supervise the program and provide assistance and advice to the parent without going into homes.

7. Does this situation change Spring/Easter break?

- Spring/Easter break will continue as scheduled in the school division.
- Schools will be closed during this time, with teachers and school staff not required to work.

Student Learning

1. How will schools be providing at-home online learning?

- For all PreK-Grade 12 students, NWSD Schools will offer at-home learning opportunities, either through online means or through other accommodations, such as course packages and telephone check-ins.
- The Ministry of Education expects that every student, regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic status will continue to learn while in-school face to face classes across the province are cancelled. This includes students in public, separate, Francophone, charter and independent schools, and Indigenous students attending provincial schools.
- Every school will have to determine what will work best for each of their students.
- Staff will provide specialized support and services to students with disabilities, in consultation with families.
- This will likely vary among school divisions and may even vary from school to school.
- The Ministry expects school divisions and school leaders to be flexible and trusts their professional skills and experience.

2. What about students who do not have computers or internet at home?

- Each school will have to determine what will work best for their students.
- This will likely vary from school to school.
- Student learning is continuing, and each school is taking steps to determine how best to deliver at-home student learning.
- This might include some online learning tools, paper packages or other ways to continue student learning.
- We have NWSD personnel who are ready and able to physically deliver learning packages once teachers have prepared them.

3. How is this going to work? How well are students going to be able to learn at home? What subjects will be covered/taught?

- Teachers are currently evaluating what has not yet been covered in their classes and will prioritize remaining learning outcomes based on what is manageable for students learning at home.
- Teachers will plan specific tasks and projects to help students learn while in-school classes are

cancelled.

4. How will you enforce these guidelines for at-home learning?

- All agree that these are reasonable guidelines for learning at home for students to continue their course work and complete the school year.
- Every Saskatchewan School Division will have to determine what will work best for their students.
- This will likely vary from school to school.
- Teachers bring with them a breadth of professional knowledge, skills and experience. Our teachers are in the best position to determine what is best for their students during this unique situation and do the best they can with the tools and resources they have.

5. If the focus in the early years is literacy and numeracy, what happens to subjects like science and social studies?

- Foundational to any student learning is literacy and numeracy.
- It remains vital for all learners, but it is very important for early years learners to maintain and develop literacy and numeracy competencies.
- We are focusing on math and literacy, as the skills and knowledge gained in these subjects cut across all other subjects.
- Other subjects may be addressed based on your child's interest and willingness to engage.

Student Assessment

1. How will teachers grade or assess at-home learning content?

- Teachers will be responsible for assessing a student's progress and reporting on their progress including assigning a final grade.
- Our division is 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 do so for the next school year.

2. Will students still get final grades?

- Every student will receive a final grade in June and students who were on track to progress to the next grade will do so for the next school year.
- We trust the professionalism of teachers and education leaders to assess their students' progress, no matter the learning environment, to determine suitable final grades.

3. Will every student receive a final report card?

- Yes, students will receive final grades and a report card, appropriate to their grade level. These will be prepared and issued at the end of June.
- Report cards might not be exactly how they were in the past, but there is an expectation for schools to still provide final report cards for this school year.

- Once we develop our plan on how to continue with student learning, we will be working on reporting your child's present progress to you: their present marks, their strengths and the areas where they still require support.

High School Students

1. Will Grade 12 students still graduate this year?

- Every student who is eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate.
- Students who are moving on to post-secondary studies will not be penalized.
- Government will be working 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.
- Students on track to receive 24 or more credits will still be eligible to graduate and receive a high school diploma.
- For any courses that have started, schools will complete them with the student to the best of their ability. All learners will be provided at least a final mark of 50% and will be awarded credits for each course.
- If the student is unable to complete a course that would have led them to achieving a high school diploma, such as work experience or a career and technology studies course, principals have the ability to award unassigned credits to ensure the student graduates.

2. How will classes in option courses such as fine arts, music, band or PAA, like automotive mechanics and cosmetology, work?

- 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.
- Government recognizes this might not be possible with some courses with hands-on learning or requiring specialized equipment.

3. How are high school graduation ceremonies going to be affected?

- Graduation ceremonies are important milestones for high school students.
- It is still too early to know how long this situation will last, but any plans being considered will have to follow the direction from the Chief Medical Health Officer at that time.

Other Student Considerations

1. What support will be provided for students with intensive needs?

- Staff who provide specialized support and services to children with intensive needs will consult with families to find ways to support learning outcomes at home, while avoiding direct contact to protect students' health.

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2. **This is a stressful time for students. What considerations are being made for their mental health?**
 - With this disruption in their education, students will be experiencing a range of emotions and will deal with the stress in a variety of ways. Wellness Coordinators will support classroom teachers to provide appropriate resources and/or programs for parents to help support their children, if warranted.
 - In time, school divisions will reach out to health partners to ensure support is in place for students during this difficult time.
 - NWSD Counsellors will be reaching out to students presently on their caseloads. However, if you sense your child needs support please reach out to your principal or email the *confidential account counsellor@nwsd.ca* with your child's name, grade, school, and a brief description of needs and you will be connected with one of our school counsellors to set up a consultation.
3. **For students with additional needs, will they continue to receive support from the NWSD Student Support Services team?**
 - Students who are presently accessing NWSD Student Support Services support will continue to have some form of support to ensure that their unique needs will be addressed during the time they are away physically from schools.
 - We encourage parents to contact the NWSD Student Support Services team. A letter will be sent out to all parents to provide direction on how to contact professionals and/or to access services. This information will also be shared through our other communication channels.

Plan for Teacher Directed Learning and Framework:

Prekindergarten & Kindergarten:

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

- Educators will connect with families using formats appropriate for the families they serve.
- Educators will communicate with families to share opportunities that encourage holistic learning including language and literacy, fine and gross motor skills and social emotional skills.
- **Teachers will assign an average of 3 hours of early learning experiences per student per week.** Teachers will be expected to work with their students and parents on the delivery of these materials.

Grade 1 to Grade 3:

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

- 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. **Teachers will assign an average of 8-10 hours per student per week.**
- As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of delivery as available to them and be supported in doing so.
- Supplemental learning opportunities will focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy development.
- Other subjects will continue to be offered where possible and practical to all students who wish to continue their learning. A cross-curricular approach would be appropriate.

Assessment

- Teachers will use their professional discretion to determine the appropriate assessment practices, should students/families choose to participate in supplemental learning.

Reporting

- The final progress report for those who choose to participate in supplemental learning will reflect outcomes assessed during this period of time and will be generated at the end of June and placed in the student's cumulative folder by June 30, 2020.
- The final progress report for those who choose not to participate in supplemental learning will reflect assessment completed to March 13, 2020, and will be generated at the end of June and placed in the student's cumulative folder by June 30, 2020.

Transitions

- Students in grades K-3 will be advanced into the next grade in the 2020-21 school year.

Communications

- As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of communication as available to them and be supported in doing so.

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- Schools and teachers will develop communication plans for students and families to inform them about learning opportunities.

Students with Additional Needs

- A learning plan will be created for students by the teacher, student support team and families as required.

Grades 4-6:

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

- 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. ***Teachers will assign an average of 8-10 hours per student per week.***
- As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of delivery as available to them and be supported in doing so.
- Supplemental learning opportunities will focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy development.
- Other subjects will continue to be offered where possible and practical to all students who wish to continue their learning. A cross-curricular approach would be appropriate.

Assessment

- Teachers will use their professional discretion to determine the appropriate assessment practices, should students/families choose to participate in supplemental learning.

Reporting

- The final progress report for those who choose to participate in supplemental learning will reflect outcomes assessed during this period of time and will be generated at the end of June and placed in the student's cumulative folder by June 30, 2020.
- The final progress report for those who choose not to participate in supplemental learning will reflect assessment completed to March 13, 2020, and will be generated at the end of June and placed in the student's cumulative folder by June 30, 2020.

Transitions

- Students in grades 4-6 will be advanced into the next grade in the 2020-21 school year.

Communications

- As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of communication as available to them and be supported in doing so.
- Schools and teachers will develop communication plans for students and families to inform them about learning opportunities.

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Students with Additional Needs

- A learning plan will be created for students by the teacher, student support team and families as required.

Grades 7-9:

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

- 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. ***Teachers will assign an average of 13-15 hours per student per week.***
- As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of delivery as available to them and be supported in doing so.
- Supplemental learning opportunities will focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy development.
- Other subjects will continue to be offered where possible and practical to all students who wish to continue their learning. A cross-curricular approach would be appropriate.
- In instances where students are enrolled in distance learning, their classes will carry on, should the student choose to continue.

Assessment

- Teachers will use their professional discretion to determine the appropriate assessment practices, should students/families choose to participate in supplemental learning.

Reporting

- The final progress report for those who choose to participate in supplemental learning will reflect outcomes assessed during this period of time and will be generated at the end of June and placed in the student's cumulative folder by June 30, 2020.
- The final progress report for those who choose not to participate in supplemental learning will reflect assessment completed to March 13, 2020, and will be generated at the end of June and placed in the student's cumulative folder by June 30, 2020.

Transitions

- Students in grades 7-9 will be advanced into the next grade in the 2020-21 school year.
- School divisions will work with community partners to continue to advance existing transition processes.

Communications

- As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of communication as available to them and be supported in doing so.
- Schools and teachers will develop communication plans for students and families to inform them about learning opportunities.

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Students with Additional Needs

- A learning plan will be created for students by the teacher, student support team and families as required.

Grades 10-12:

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

- As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of delivery as available to them and be supported in doing so.
- School divisions and schools will offer access to content that focuses on core subjects (Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, Health Education/Physical Education, Arts Education/ Practical and Applied Arts) to all students who wish to continue their learning in courses in which they are registered. **Teachers will assign an average of 3 hours of work per course per week.**
- Other subjects will continue to be offered where possible and practical to all students who wish to continue their learning in courses in which they are registered.
- For students in a block or quad system, who have registered for and not started an elective course required for graduation, schools will offer the opportunity. To support the situation where a school is not able to offer the elective course, the Ministry of Education will increase the amount of special project credits for the 2019-20 school year from 3 to 5 to allow flexibility in student graduation. Please see publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/73964 for more information.
- In instances where students are enrolled in distance learning, their classes will carry on, should the student choose to continue. If currently enrolled students choose not to continue, they will be granted a minimum final mark record of 50 per cent or greater, based on the outcomes evaluated to date in the subject area, as of March 13, 2020.

Assessment and Evaluation

- For students who choose to engage in supplemental learning opportunities, teachers will provide formative assessment and other feedback.
- The processes for evaluation, in order for students to increase their marks from March 13, 2020, will continue to be determined by the teacher.
- Provincial examinations within the K-12 system are waived for non-accredited teachers from March 13, 2020 through to the end of June 2020. All course challenge requests would occur with local teachers/schools.
- Home-based students and adult learners access to provincial examinations will be made available through the Ministry of Education.
- Flexible assessment and evaluation practices will be utilized.

Grading

- 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

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the mark record through options provided within the capacity of the school division and local school if students choose.

- Students will be invited to continue learning; however, if they and their families choose not to, they will be assigned their grade as of March 13, 2020, as per the statement above.
- 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.
- Marks will be submitted to the Ministry of Education as per the usual process by July 2, 2020, as per the Registrar's Handbook.
- In these exceptional times, teachers are asked to follow the direction provided by the province relating to final mark assessments, and as such are deemed to be working within the bounds of their professional and ethical standards of practice. The Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Professional Teacher Regulatory Board has provided the following supportive statement: "Teachers who provide final assessments consistent with the direction provided by the Ministry of Education and their school division upon the closure of schools for the COVID-19 crisis will be following the directions of their employer and would be considered to be acting within the expectations of the profession".

Transitions

- 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.
- School divisions will work with community partners to continue to advance existing transition processes.

Communications

- As a means to engage all students, teachers should employ multiple modes of communication as available to them and be supported in doing so.
- Schools and teachers will develop communication plans for students and families to inform them about learning opportunities.

Students with Additional Needs

- A learning plan will be created by the teacher/student support team as required.