



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)**

425 Jermyn Avenue  
Penticton, BC, Canada V2A 1Z4

Telephone: (250) 770-7700  
Fax: (250) 770-7732  
E-mail: [tmanuel@summer.com](mailto:tmanuel@summer.com)  
Website: [www.sd67.bc.ca](http://www.sd67.bc.ca)

**Office of the Assistant Superintendent**

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**COVID-19 Update – March 18, 2020**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Community Members,

The global pandemic COVID-19 is moving quickly and its impact on our community, and School District No. 67 specifically, is immense. Before I address the District's current planning and response to the pandemic, I would like to acknowledge that there are many people who are directly impacted by COVID-19, and our thoughts are with them. We have many people in our community who are caring for their parents or the elderly daily and who are also wondering how they will support their children when spring break ends. The situation is uncharted territory for us all, and everyone is impacted to some degree.

As you are aware, on March 17, in an unprecedented move, the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education announced that schools in British Columbia will be closed indefinitely for direct face-to-face instruction. This means that on March 30 at the end of spring break, schools will not be open to students to be present for regular classes. While students will not be in schools, School Districts will need to provide continuity of instruction.

Parents and guardians will have many questions regarding what this looks like. For example, what does continuity of instruction mean? For Grade 12 students, how will this impact eligibility to enter post-secondary? For other parents, there will be questions regarding what childcare will look like when they need to be at work.

I want to provide the information we currently have available to address questions that students and parents may have, and to commit to continuing to provide updates as we gain new information on this situation. Some of the points I would like to highlight from Minister Rob Fleming's letter to parents yesterday include:

- Every student will receive a final mark, and all students on track to move to the next grade level will do so in the fall.
- For Grades 10 and 11 students, graduation assessments will be postponed.
- Every student eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate.

- The Ministry of Education will work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training and with post-secondary institution on admission and the smooth transition of graduating students.

When our teachers are back from spring break, schools will engage in the work of activating a coherent plan that provides clarity for students and parents around what continuity of instruction will look like by grade level. We ask for your patience as we develop these plans, and your understanding that these plans will take time to develop and implement. We will look to have a measured response that provides clarity, equity and multiple points of access for parents and students. At the same time, I would underscore that a continuity of learning plan in this extra-ordinary situation cannot replace the learning that takes place when schools are operating under normal instruction. We will need to work together to ensure that supports are provided to student learning that meet all our community member's needs.

This is a very challenging time for our community, our province, and the world. Within this framework, our work as a District will now focus on providing clarity regarding a continuity of learning plan as the next steps in our pandemic response. As we do that, I would like to encourage all of you to ensure you are starting by taking care of yourself and your family in whatever context that might look like. With that in mind the Ministry of Health has developed an online self-assessment tool at <https://covid19.thrive.health/> for those to access who may have symptoms. If you do have symptoms you can call 8-1-1 to pre-arrange health testing. We have been reminded by Provincial Health Officer Dr. Henry that while symptomatic, individuals need to self-isolate. The province has also launched a new non-medical information line for British Columbians who have questions about COVID-19: **1-888-COVID19**. Phone lines are open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM to 8:00 PM, and information is available in more than 110 languages.

As we act together to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, we must also work to ensure we are taking care of each other and our community. In this regard, School District No. 67 will continue to work to provide clear communication regarding next steps and supports for students, parents and our staff as we move through this challenging time. Please continue to check our District website for updates as we will post new information as we receive it.

Best Regards,



Todd Manuel  
Assistant Superintendent  
School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)