



**MINISTER
OF EDUCATION**

Room 168
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
R3C 0V8

MAR 3 1 2020

To: Superintendents of School Divisions
Directors of First Nations Education Authorities
Student Services Administrators
Principals of First Nations Schools
Principals of Funded Independent Schools

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your leadership in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. I have seen tremendous commitment to ensure learning continues even as we keep the health and well-being of students as our top priority. Please accept my sincere appreciation.

Following the recommendations of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, I am directing all schools to suspend classroom learning indefinitely for this school year.

All students will be expected to actively engage in remote learning. Students who were on track to graduate this year will graduate. No student will be held back a grade because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Provincial exams will be cancelled. However, assessments will continue. Students will receive a final grade and report card. Planning underway includes minimizing the impact on the next school year and arranging for learning recovery where needed. My department officials will share a specific framework and more details with you in the days ahead.

School buildings may close. However, schools should maintain essential staffing to allow teachers to access resources and for childcare centres in school to operate under the new parameters. Schools must ensure social distancing and increase cleaning for infection prevention.

Savings generated as a result of the closures of schools must be held in a separate account, and only spent with department approval, as we determine how best to ensure those funds benefit students during this unprecedented time.

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We are committed to ensuring that parents, students, teachers and administrators have timely information on a regular basis. Please visit the schools section of the COVID-19 Information for website at www.manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans for updates.

Thank you once again for your support, and commitment to learning.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Kelvin Goertzen
Minister
Education