

Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements

As precaution to limit the spread of COVID-19, on April 7, 2020, with recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Yukon's Minister of Education, Tracy-Anne McPhee, ordered starting April 16 the suspension of face-to-face classes in all Yukon K-12 public schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

The Department of Education is working with the British Columbia Ministry of Education and a Yukon committee of educators and central administration staff have developed the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements, which guide schools to ensure continued learning for all Yukon students. These learning requirements will enable students to continue their learning in relation to the knowledge, skills and understandings outlined in the Yukon school curriculum.

Students and their families/guardians will be provided, through a range of approaches, with learning opportunities that will able the education of each student to continue. Schools will provide students and families with learning opportunities that continue to meet the goals and objectives established for the Yukon education system, especially in the areas of developing students' literacy and numeracy skills and supporting their social, emotional, and physical well-being.

Essential learning to the remainder of the school year

We recognize that educators will not be able to complete the full school curriculum. School principals will work with their teachers and school staff to identify the following for your school's students:

- What learning standards have been covered?
- What learning standards need to be covered?
- What priority learning standards can be covered?
- How will this learning be delivered?
- How will this learning be assessed?
- How will feedback be provided?

Based on where students are in their learning, schools and teachers will prioritize essential learning for the remainder of the school year based on the following principles:

- **Learning Together and Early Kindergarten (K4):**
 - Provide opportunities and resources for students to engage in learning through play, inquiry and hands-on experiences while supporting gross and fine motor development, oral language and social skills.
 - Assign about **three hours** for each student per week to engage in this type of learning.
- **K – Grade 6:**
 - Provide opportunities and resources for students to engage in building literacy and numeracy skills across the subject areas and the personal and social competencies of the curriculum.
 - Assign about **five hours** of work per week for each student.
- **Grades 7 – 9:**
 - Provide opportunities and resources for students to engage in building literacy and numeracy skills across the subject areas and the personal and social competencies of the curriculum.
 - Assign about **ten hours** of work per week for each student.
- **Grades 10 – 12:**
 - Provide activities, resources and supports for students to develop the learning standards' competencies and understandings prioritized so students have the opportunity to be successful in all their current courses.
 - Assign about **three hours** of work per course for each student each week.
 - Work with Grade 12 students to identify those who need to complete the Grade 10 numeracy assessment and ensure they meet this requirement.

School learning plans

Each school will develop a learning plan for how teachers and school staff will ensure that student learning continues for the remainder of the school year. Learning plans will

include how to deliver at-home student learning, which could include using online learning tools authorized and supported by the Department of Education or more traditional learning resources.

Each school's plan must:

- Follow the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements;
- Consider the unique needs of your school community; and
- Consider a variety of ways to provide learning opportunities, recognizing that not all students and families have access to technology.

Each school will develop and communicate its learning plan to students and families before April 15.

Assessment and reporting

To ensure students continue to be assessed on their learning, principals and school staff will:

- Assess and document the learning standards that have been covered with students to-date this school year.
- Identify and document the learning standards that still need to be provided.
- Determine how to deliver, assess, and provide feedback on the learning standards that still need to be provided.

Teachers will assess each student's individual progress in all learning covered this year based on the learning standards that have been completed and those that still need to be provided.

Schools will provide each student with an end-of-year report appropriate for their grade level that includes a final assessment of student progress.

Schools will not complete the normal territory-wide spring assessments (e.g., DART, EYE, BOEHM).

Graduation requirements

Students are eligible to graduate if they are on track to complete the BC Graduation Program requirements. To graduate in the 2019-20 school year, students must have completed 80 course credits and write the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment by the end of the school year.

End-of-year reports for Grade 12 students must include course marks and the notice of completion of the Grade 10 numeracy assessment.

Schools will ensure that every student who is eligible and on target to graduate from Grade 12 is provided with the opportunity to do so. Teachers will support their students for the remainder of the school year to help them stay on track to graduate.

The BC Ministry of Education has suspended graduation assessments for Grade 10 and 11 students. The Department of Education is working with the BC Ministry of Education to ensure graduating students who have not taken the Grade 10 numeracy assessment can meet this graduation requirement.

Communications with students and families

Principals and schools will initially contact students and families before April 15 to stay in touch and discuss how best to communicate about learning opportunities moving forward.

Throughout the remainder of the school year, teachers and school staff will:

- Regularly engage students and their families to determine student needs and provide materials, resources and activities to support student learning;
- Identify where adaptations or supports for student learning may be needed;
- Plan for how to address specific student and family needs; and
- Identify school staff who will regularly contact families to provide support.

Supporting students with exceptional needs

It is important that we continue to provide supports to students with exceptional needs for the remainder of the school year.

School staff will assess where students are in their individual learning, and prepare for unique learning needs that need to be addressed. Schools will regularly communicate

with parents to provide supports, resources and learning materials to help students complete their essential learning goals.

Student Support Services staff will remain available to:

- Support teachers in providing learning opportunities to students exceptional needs and meet Student Learning Plan or Individual Education Plan goals and objectives;
- Support school-based teams, if requested, in developing and delivering IEPs to students through various online programs;
- Support schools to provide resources for parents to support their children at home as requested;
- Provide specialist services such as speech and language, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, educational psychology as much as possible; and
- Support school staff in transitioning students from grade-to-grade and from their secondary school experience.

Educational assistants will continue to support students with exceptional needs, and teachers with delivery of programs. Each school principal will work with their school's educational assistants to ensure they are providing the necessary supports, under the guidance of the teacher to support programs for students with exceptional needs.

Working with Yukon First Nations

Schools will continue to communicate and work with Yukon First Nations to support the needs of their citizens. Schools will ensure they maintain and combine efforts, through existing relationships with Yukon First Nations, to support the needs of students served by their schools. Schools will also be working with Yukon First Nations to ensure Yukon First Nations ways of knowing, doing and being continue to be part of student learning.

Non-enrolling educators will continue to collaborate with classroom teachers and anyone authorized to receive information on a student's programming, including Yukon First Nations, Community Education Liaison Coordinators and Education Support Workers, to ensure that content for at-home learning is accessible, meaningful for all learners and can be supported by all parents/guardians.

Resources for Parents Supporting Learning from Home

At-home learning will resume for all K-12 Yukon students starting April 16. Teachers will begin providing learning opportunities to be completed at home.

Parents/guardians are not expected to replace the role of the teachers. Teachers will be working with parents to support their child's learning.

Supporting learning at home

Learning is not just about what takes place in the classroom. There are different environments and ways in which children and youth learn important skills.

Many different learning opportunities can take place in the home. For some families, learning may simply focus on adjusting to the new normal, following home routines, developing emotional and self-regulation strategies or practicing everyday skills, such as tying shoes, cooking or simple household chores. Other learning activities can take place on the land and in the outdoors. These activities can focus on areas related to literacy and numeracy.

It is important to ensure children feel safe, loved and supported. Families should encourage children to stick with a regular routine to help maintain a sense of normalcy and stability, including regular times for:

- Going to bed;
- Waking up; and
- Eating meals.

Learning activities and resources

The Department of Education Resources Services' website, available at resourceservices.yukonschools.ca/digital-resources.html, has Digital Learning Resources that students and families can access. Students and parents/guardians can contact their teachers to get a login and password to access these resources.

You can find other suggestions and resources for how families can extend student learning while at home on the Government of Yukon website at yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/continuing-student-learning-home#finding-a-routine-at-home.

Supporting mental health and wellbeing for your child or youth

Children and youth may have a difficult time coping with the changes to their learning environment, stress they may be feeling about the world around them as families are also adjusting to new circumstances and stressors.

During this time, it is important to help your child or youth maintain a sense of normalcy and stability. While addressing your child's needs, parents should also practice both physical and mental self-care.

Some tips to help maintain your mental wellbeing during this time includes:

- Keep a schedule and invite your teen to help set a schedule for themselves.
- Talk to your child or youth about COVID-19, ask questions about what they know and provide honest and provide truthful age-appropriate information.
- Listen to their questions, and research questions with them that you cannot answer.
- Teach them about the importance of proper hygiene, including hand washing and not touching face, eyes and mouth; physical distancing; and staying home to keep their friends, families and communities healthy.
- Listen to and validate their feelings and emotions.
- Reassure them when they are feeling anxious and help them refocus to another activity.
- Monitor media access, as constant information can add stress.
- Expect changes in behaviour, be patient and keep parenting.
- If it becomes necessary to adjust plans, be open and honest about the reasons.

If you need help for your child or youth:

- Contact Kids Help Phone at:
 - 1-800-668-6868 (support in French or English) to reach a counsellor 24/7
 - text CONNECT to 686868 (24/7)
 - Online: kidshelpphone.ca/
 - [live chat](#) via the website at kidshelpphone.ca/live-chat (9:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m.)
- See the Government of Yukon's [COVID-19 counselling and crisis supports](#).

If you or your child have COVID-19 symptoms:

Phone 811 to get advice on COVID-19 testing, if you have the following:

- cough;
- fever; or
- difficulty breathing.

Additional questions

For more information on your school's plans for continued student learning, contact your school's principal, email publicschools@gov.yk.ca or call 867-667-5127.

The most current information for students and families is available at yukon.ca/en/your-government/find-out-what-government-doing/information-public-school-students-and-families.
