



Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers
l'Association provinciale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec

April 2020

Summary of MEES Directives and Recommendations for Teachers

Since schools were closed across the province on March 16, 2020, there have been a number of developments that are pertinent for teachers. The MEES has issued directives and orientations to school boards regarding how to have students resume contact with their learning. While it appears that school boards have communicated well generally speaking on these matters, many points are worth repeating to assist teachers in their interactions with each other, their administration, students and parents, as the issue may be.

Facts and announcements

- The MEES launched a site on March 30, 2020 called “école ouverte” (ecoleouverte.ca) with general educational activities. These activities are not mandatory for students and are not for evaluation purposes;
- As of April 6, 2020, the MEES will begin making other educational activities (learning kits) available. These activities will be specific to every grade level and subject;
- The minister of education has stated that these activities are optional for students, are not meant for evaluation and are meant to help parents and students to reinforce or consolidate learning. They are not meant for new formal learning;
- The minister has indicated that the prepared learning kits available as of April 6, 2020 are to be reviewed by school teams prior to distribution;
- The school team may indicate which learning activities are appropriate for their students in light of the material covered with their group(s) up until the school closure. This would also mean that following the examination of the kit by the teaching staff, it may decide that the learning kit should be distributed to the students as is;
- The minister has asked that school teams be put into action to reach out to students, especially those that are deemed most vulnerable. Where possible, this should be done on a weekly basis and be direct contact with students;
- The minister has also indicated that all categories of staff should be involved in reaching out to students, not only teachers, and that flexibility and understanding with respect to the individual situation of staff members needs to be shown;
- The minister has suggested that since students have many teachers in a typical high school, that the students to be contacted be divided equitably and with flexibility among the staff;
- All ministerial exams have been cancelled. The minister has stated that teachers will use their professional judgment based on the information from the two report card periods completed to evaluate their students.

Recommendations and additional information for teachers

- When a teacher contacts a student, they should be sure to protect their personal space. Do not use personal email or personal social media accounts or shared online spaces, use those already established with the board. Be sure to hide or block your personal phone numbers, whether cell phones or land lines;
- If, after contact with a student or their parent, you become concerned that there is a very difficult situation for the student at home, or if you are subjected to unacceptable behaviour during this contact, inform your administrator and suspend further contact until the situation is examined and resolved;
- There is no ministerial directive mandating teachers or schools to provide materials other than those the MEES develops and makes available. There is also no directive or mandate for teachers to modify or adapt these or any other materials for individual students;
- The contact is meant to provide general contact and support for students. It is not meant to be distance teaching or formal distance education;
- The manner for supporting students with special needs shall be discussed by all members of the school team taking into account the specific context of the school. For more information on this, please refer to the QPAT document entitled "*Challenges and Recommendations Related Distance Education Support for Students with Special Needs in Quebec's English Public Sector*", available on the QPAT website.