



Québec City, September 16, 2020

BY E-MAIL

Mr. Jean-François Roberge
Minister of Education
Ministère de l'Éducation
ministre@education.gouv.qc.ca

Subject: Evaluation of Learning

Dear Minister,

In order to provide the conditions required to ensure that all students have a safe and stimulating school year, teachers have had to adapt their pedagogical methods. Since the beginning of the year, they have also had to become familiar with enhanced hygiene and physical distancing measures, handling of face coverings, and differentiated transitions and breaks. At the same time, before new learning can be introduced, a major catch-up effort is currently underway to address differences in levels of learning among students. In short, since the beginning of the new school year, a great deal of time has been spent on introducing and mastering health measures and consolidating learning. This has used up a lot of time that would normally have been devoted to the teaching and learning of program content and compulsory material.

Given this situation, the question of evaluation has become a major problem. How can teachers meet normal requirements for evaluations and report cards in a context that is by no means normal? How can program objectives be evaluated – a professional task for which judgment must be based on valid, sufficient and relevant information – when teaching and learning time has been reduced significantly in order to address the challenges and unforeseen situations generated by the pandemic? How can teachers be kind and take care of their

students' emotional needs when the race to produce grades for report cards places undue pressure on them and on their students in the current context?

Teachers and students cannot be the only ones who must adapt. It is vital that the system itself, and the evaluation requirements, are also adapted to the current situation. For this reason, on behalf of the teachers we represent, we are asking you to support teaching and learning by significantly reducing the time that must be spent on evaluation. This will involve a temporary relaxation of the requirements set out in the Basic School Regulation, in particular those concerning the report card (number of steps and deadlines, number of subject-specific results required, weighting of terms, etc.). It is also vital to limit ministerial examinations and school service centre internal examinations.

This is a heartfelt appeal sent to you by the teachers we represent, and we hope very much that you will respond to their request in the affirmative, as a sign of support during this exceptional year.

We remain available to discuss this issue with you.

Yours sincerely,

Josée Scalabrini, President
Fédération des syndicats de l'enseignement (FSE-CSQ)

Heidi Yetman, President
Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)

c.c. Eric Blackburn, Deputy Minister, Ministère de l'Éducation
Anne-Marie Lepage, Associate Deputy Minister, Preschool, Elementary and
Secondary Education, Ministère de l'Éducation