COVID-19 Pandemic Response 2020
Supplemental Learning Plan
Message from the Director

Dear parents and caregivers,

I want to begin by saying thank you for your continued support of our schools and our staff members. We know this is more than a disruption. Education starting from a young age is vital to the growth of our children. We are working to right the ship as much as we can during these turbulent times.

During the pause in school operations, the Ministry of Education worked with numerous education partners to determine the next steps for students. The ministry created the Response Planning Team with representatives from key education stakeholders to address the instructional needs of students for the remainder of the year, and the adaptation of school division operations.

Along with this provincial work, our division staff explored how we can offer learning support to students and families at home. This isn’t simple; the work of a classroom teacher can’t be easily replicated through an online classroom. While there are many questions to answer, this document provides a base for our work going forward.

The information in this document will help guide the work of our teachers as we support student learning at home. Our goal is for teachers to be accessible to students during the school day. We know student learning in the home requires support from parents and caregivers, which may be challenging right now. Our teachers will provide an appropriate amount of work to help prepare our students for their return to school, but not overburden your family. Teachers will be accessible to provide regular guidance and support.

There are still many questions we are working to answer. As we endeavour to provide educational support in an entirely new way, we will encounter problems. While this class cancellation is temporary, we don’t know when schools will re-open. We ask for your patience as we work through these challenges. Like many of you, much of our school staff members will be working from home while also caring for loved ones. They remain committed to their students and will do what they can to provide what your child needs.

Our division has created a parent resource page www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca/parentresources for elementary school families that provides links to academic sites appropriate for each grade level.

Safety remains our priority. As our province’s response to the pandemic evolves, this may impact our work. We will continue to provide division updates on our website www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca/covid19.

Let’s continue to look out for each other and protect our community. Please stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Barry MacDougall, Director of Education
Saskatoon Public Schools
Supplemental Learning Plan

Introduction

On March 16, 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan announced an indefinite suspension of classes in all provincial schools in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

During school closures, Saskatoon Public Schools’ educators will be working with students and families to continue curriculum-based learning at home.

Throughout the school building closures, Saskatoon Public Schools’ students will continue to develop appropriate skills and knowledge that will allow them to be successful when they return to regular learning routines at school.

Goals of the Saskatoon Public Schools’ Supplementary Education Plan

The goals of the supplementary education plan are to have students continue to develop mastery of learning outcomes in literacy and mathematics, to engage in health-enhancing physical education and activity, for band students to continue to develop skill in playing their instruments, and for all students to feel connected to school and learning.

Saskatoon Public Schools’ educators will continue to offer the high level of professional support for learning that students and parents have come to expect. Far beyond providing activities, teachers will continue to plan, deliver, and assess learning experiences that are strategically designed to meet the needs of students. This will include the use of student data to create appropriate expectations and support for each student.

Saskatoon Public Schools’ students and families will receive:

- initial contact from the school on March 30 or 31 to determine how they prefer to be supported to sustain learning during school closures (what communication format and timing work best for them, how they will engage in the learning process in their home, etc.);
- a weekly learning plan from teachers at their school that includes activities targeted at specific learning outcomes (elementary students only);
- weekly individualized contact from Saskatoon Public Schools’ educators starting on April 2 (elementary) and April 6 (secondary) to support the actualization of the learning plan and to monitor progress; and,
- support to engage in learning at home in ways that work for them.
OUR VISION
Every Student is Known • Valued • Believed In

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Students will achieve success in their learning goals

CHARACTER
Students will demonstrate respect, responsibility, and perseverance

ENGAGEMENT
Students will actively participate in relevant and meaningful learning

WELL-BEING
Students will develop the skills to make healthy choices

OUR COMMITMENT
We will create learning experiences that inspire all students to reach their potential.
Prekindergarten to Grade 8
Responsibilities and Connections

PREKINDERGARTEN

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

- Educators will connect with families using formats appropriate for the families on an individual basis.
- Educators will communicate with families to share opportunities that encourage holistic learning including language and literacy, fine and gross motor skills, and social-emotional skills.

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

The supplemental learning plan reflects our best thinking as we commence our support for teaching and learning from home. The specifics of the learning plan will be designed to meet the unique needs of students in the context of their schools and families. Throughout the process, Saskatoon Public Schools will revise and strengthen the plan to support learning and teaching from home based on assessments and feedback from educators and families.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL LEARNING PLAN

Curriculum Areas of Student Learning

- Supplemental learning opportunities will focus on language/literacy and mathematics/numeracy development.
- Additional instruction in physical education and band will also be included in the learning program provided.
- Other subjects will continue to be offered where possible and practical.
- The learning program will be supported with the use of technology where possible.

Weekly Learning Plans

- By Thursday, April 2, teachers will provide the first of the weekly student learning plans to students/families. These will continue until the end of the school year or until regular classes resume, with the exception of the Easter break.

Weekly learning plans will include literacy and mathematics learning activities chosen to sustain the students’ learning progression toward mastery of curriculum outcomes. Choice of learning activities will be based on assessments of student learning and will provide choice and differentiation. The initial weekly plan will be based on assessments from prior to school closure.
while subsequent weekly plans will be based on ongoing assessment of student progress. Assessment strategies are an essential part of the weekly learning plan.

- The length of time required to engage in the weekly math and literacy learning activities will fit within the initial guidelines outlined below (total hours of literacy and math combined). These recommended hours per week are in line with most other school divisions in the country. These hours will be reviewed based on feedback from families and teachers and may be increased in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Hours per Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prekindergarten</td>
<td>2 – 4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten to Grade 3</td>
<td>5 – 7 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4 to 6</td>
<td>6 – 8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 7 to 8</td>
<td>8 – 10 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All student expectations for learning will fit within this recommended range of hours. This may include whole class instruction, one-on-one instruction with the teacher, and work that the student is doing independently. These times may be adapted for specific students or classes based on their specific learning needs.

Note: Band activities will be in addition to the above hours for those students who take band and choose to engage. Physical Education will be in addition to the above hours. Other subjects may be added to the learning plan over time.

**Weekly Personalized Contact with Students/Families**

Every student will receive personalized support for learning each week. This extended one-to-one contact will help to ensure the success of the learning plan. During these meetings, teachers will explain and adapt learning activities as needed, answer questions, spend time connecting with students, and determine how students are progressing in order to plan upcoming learning activities.

Initially our best thinking is that these weekly extended contacts with students/families will be between 20 – 30 minutes per student depending on need. As we learn to deliver remote learning, this process will evolve, and these time recommendations may change. Above all, we know that this individual contact with students is critically important to ensure their success through a positive learning relationship.

**Assessment**

- Teachers will use their professional discretion to determine the appropriate assessment practices to understand students’ progress in learning in order to provide responses designed to help them succeed.
Reporting

- The June progress report will reflect outcomes assessed during the period from March through June and will be generated at the end of June and placed in the student’s cumulative folder by June 30, 2020. For students who have not participated in learning during the school closure time, the final progress report will reflect the student’s learning through March 13, 2020. Should students return to school before the end of June, progress reports will document learning progress during school closure, as well as the in-school learning.

Transitions

- Students in grades k-8 will be advanced into the next grade in the 2020-21 school year.

Communications

- Teachers and school administrators will maintain regular contact with families in order to describe the support for learning that is available to them.
- Schools and teachers will develop communication plans with students and families to inform them about learning opportunities and determine an appropriate schedule for communication. This will include determining the level of involvement that families want to have in the program being offered.
- Teachers will have multiple modes of communication available to them and will use the most effective ways of contacting all students and families to promote full engagement in the learning program.

Note: In these uncertain times, we want to be flexible with families to allow choice regarding family participation in the learning program. We will respect the decision of families that choose to discontinue their child’s learning. For those families, teachers will be asked to continue to contact families, inviting them periodically to join the learning process. It is never too late to join.

Students with Additional Needs

- For students with additional or exceptional needs, a learning plan designed to meet those needs will be created by the teacher, student support team, and families.
Grade 9 to 12
Responsibilities and Connections

SUPPLEMENTAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers will contact all students and families the week of March 30 to April 3 to provide the options available to them for the remainder of the school year. As directed by the Ministry of Education, the options available to all students are:

1) Accepting the current mark as final and not continue with the course, or
2) Continue learning in the course. All students choosing this option can improve their current mark, however, the final mark cannot go lower than their current mark.

We welcome and encourage all students to continue in their learning.

Teachers will develop supplemental learning plans for the immediate future and more general plans for the duration of the school year. These supplemental learning opportunities will start on or before Monday, April 6.

As we transition into this new mode of home learning opportunities, teachers have been asked to:

• Connect new activities to prior learning that students have already had success with;
• Make the first activities similar to activities students are familiar with;
• Provide multiple modes of delivery that best suit the interest and capacity of students and families; and,
• Incorporate a check-in to ensure that all students have accessed the material and they understand how to communicate the results with the teacher.

During these difficult times, Saskatoon Public Schools is striving to provide all our students with equitable learning opportunities. We recognize that every family’s situation and ability to support student learning is unique, and we are hoping that together we can contribute to ongoing learning. These supplemental learning supports are intended to:

• Be optional (use as much or as little as necessary, opt in/out at any time);
• Be flexible and meet student and family learning needs;
• Provide feedback to ensure that learning continues; and,
• Support continued learning that will not impact grade for this year.

A general guideline for the supplemental learning plan is for teachers to provide students with 3 hours of course work per week per class.

For students and families who have limited or no access to the internet and/or technology, we will strive to create alternate plans to ensure access to supplemental learning supports.

Classroom/specialist teachers or advisory teachers will contact students and families to discuss their ability to access supplemental learning supports.
PHYSICAL DISTANCING
FOR SASKATOON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FAMILIES

Physical distancing means avoiding close contact with others to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### NOT ALLOWED
- Playdates
- Sleepovers
- Group gatherings, outings and events
- Non-essential travel
- Playgrounds
- Group hangouts
- Parties
- Crowded retail stores
- Visitors in your home
- Non-essential workers in your home

### USE CAUTION
- Grocery Stores
- Take-out food
- Pick up medications
- Activities and sports outdoors alone or with members of your household
- Help someone in need or in self-isolation with essentials, groceries or medication (drop off at doorstep)

### SAFE TO DO
- Walk, run or hike outside
- Ride your bike
- Gardening and yardwork
- Play in your yard
- Essentials, groceries or medication delivered to your doorstep
- Group video chats
- Work from home
- Read a book
- Listen to music
- Play games with family
- Cook or bake

### REMEMBER TO:
- Stay at least two metres away from others when outside your home
- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your face
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm
- Avoid touching surfaces people touch often

Updates for Saskatoon Public Schools Families
saskatoonpublicschools.ca

COVID-19 Information and Resources
Saskatchewan.ca/covid19