

March 22, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to you today to provide information regarding:

1. The Education Review & Bill 64
2. Temporary remote learning
3. Spring break travel advisory
4. Variants of concern (VOC)

As you may have heard, last week, Education Minister Cliff Cullen released the [Commission on K–12 Education Report](#) along with [Bill 64, The Education Modernization Act](#). These documents are available to view at bettereducationmb.ca. At this time, these changes still need to be passed as Bills in the Legislative Assembly. This spring, the province has also indicated there are plans to consult with parents/guardians, education staff and stakeholders.

For parents/guardians, we want you to know that regardless of what happens as the legislative process unfolds, there will be no immediate change to your child(ren)'s education in RETSD. Programming and supports will continue and will continue to operate as we have been over the last year.

The new bill and report propose significant changes to the education system including a new provincial governance model implemented by July 1, 2022, with a Provincial Education Authority overseeing K–12 education in the province. Directors of Education would lead the delivery of K–12 education in the 15 newly established regions under the direction of the Provincial Education Authority.

We understand that the government's planning will start as follows:

- March–June 2021: Consultation with parents, education staff, and stakeholders
- Fall 2021: Release the transformation roadmap for implementation with timelines
- November 2021: Establish the Provincial Education Authority *no later than July 1, 2022*

Given the scope of this announcement on the K–12 Education Review, it will take time to review and understand the implications in our division and their impact. We will share more details as they become available. In the meantime, education continues in our schools.

As previously communicated, all K–8 students may choose temporary remote learning during the time our schools are operating in the Restricted (Orange) level of the Pandemic Response System.

If your child was enrolled in temporary remote learning prior to the spring break and you would like them to return to in-class learning after the break, please contact your school administrator to determine a suitable date for their return. Please contact our transportation office if your child(ren) qualify for busing and you'd like to resume this service.

With spring break around the corner, we remind parents/guardians that travel outside of the province is not advised at this time. Individuals who travel outside of Manitoba must go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from the date of arrival to Manitoba. All travellers are strongly advised to get two COVID-19 tests—one on the day of arrival and another on day 10 after arriving in Manitoba, regardless of if they are displaying symptoms.

COVID-19 variants of concern (VOC), such as those first identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil, continue to spread globally. The first VOC detected in Canada was in December 2020. This variant was originally identified in the United Kingdom. Since then, cases of COVID-19 due to VOC have been identified in several Canadian provinces. For more information about VOC, visit: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/variants.html>

Now is a time to remain vigilant and continue to practise the fundamentals—remain home when sick, wash your hands, wear a mask, and practise physical distancing.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the break.

Sincerely,



Kelly Barkman
Superintendent/CEO