

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

May 29, 2020

TO ALL PARTNERS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

As a result of the health crisis that caused educational services to be suspended on May 13, 2020, leading to the continuation of student learning using various means, modifications have been made to the three basic regulations established under the *Education Act*. These modifications include reglementary changes to preschool, elementary and secondary school report cards for the 2019-2020 school year. A letter from the Minister of Education and Higher Education, in which he presents his intentions in this regard, was sent to partners in the education system on May 4, 2020.

Below, you will find the main provisions of the *Basic school regulation for preschool, elementary and secondary education*, the *Basic adult general education regulation* and the *Basic vocational training regulation* that have been modified for the 2019-2020 school year.

In General Education in the Youth Sector, the new instructions must be followed when preparing the final report cards of the school year. As a result, you will have to make some adjustments to the results management system, inform students and their parents, and support your staff.

In order for you to have the necessary time to prepare for this change, you will find below the details of the new instructions as well as the changes that need to be made to the achievement record produced by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur for Secondary IV and V students.

Changes to the *Basic school regulation for preschool, elementary and secondary education for the 2019-2020 school year*

The amendments to the *Basic school regulation for preschool, elementary and secondary education* for the 2019-2020 school year were enacted to ensure that the current school year is valid. The changes cover various relevant provisions and provide for standards that are specific to the 2019-2020 school year, where required.

The modifications include changes to obligations regarding the school calendar, the final report card and the certification of studies.

The changes to the specific standards regarding the school calendar and the time allocated to specific subjects include:

- the minimum number of days dedicated to educational services (110 days instead of 180 days)

- the minimum number of hours dedicated to compulsory subjects or instructional services for subjects established by the Minister:
 - for students at the elementary level and in Secondary Cycle One (440 hours instead of 720 hours)
 - for students in Secondary Cycle Two (396 hours instead of 648 hours)
- the minimum number of hours of instructional services dedicated to each credit of a program of study (14 hours instead of 25 hours)
- the time allocated to general education and practical training as part of Pework Training and Training for a Semiskilled Trade

Standards adopted for preparing the final report card

Report card – Preschool

In preschool education, no modification will be made to the regular report card. Teachers will prepare a report card and use the marks A, B, C or D to evaluate students with regard to the expected outcomes of the program, while keeping in mind the exceptional context that interrupted the school year.

Report card – Elementary and Secondary Cycle One

For the first two terms, the report cards for Elementary and Secondary Cycle One will contain the grades as percentages that were already submitted for previous report cards. The results for each competency of the third term will be made up of a “Pass” (P), “Fail” (F) or “Not evaluated” (NE) mark. To determine these results, teachers will take into account any evaluations conducted, if applicable, between the end of the second term and March 13, inclusive, in addition to observations they have made about students’ learning since the end of the second term.

A final subject mark will be determined for each subject and will consist of the marks “Pass” (P) or “Fail” (F). Teachers will take into consideration the results for the first two terms and, if applicable, any evaluations they conducted up until May 13, 2020, inclusive, in addition to any observations made before or after this date, to make a judgment on the students’ success. Since ministerial examinations will not have taken place, they will not be reflected on the report card.

Report card – Secondary Cycle Two

For Secondary IV and V, the report card for the first two terms will contain the grades as percentages that have already been submitted for previous report cards. The results for each competency of the third term will be made up of a “Pass” (P), “Fail” (F) or “Not evaluated” (NE) mark. To determine these results, teachers will take into account any evaluations conducted, if applicable, between the end of the second term and March 13, inclusive, in addition to observations they have made about students’ learning since the end of the second term.

Given the requirements associated with the certification of studies, the final results are given **as percentages**. They will be based on the average results of the first two terms, on any evaluations conducted between the end of the second term and March 13, 2020, and on the observations

made by teachers throughout the school year. The first term will be worth 40%, and the final results of the second term, 60%. However, if a student's file justifies it, teachers will be able to modify the final results for the competencies of the programs of study to better reflect the student's learning. For this purpose, teachers must take into account the evaluations conducted between the end of the second term and March 13, 2020, inclusive, if applicable, as well as the observations they have made on the student's learning throughout the school year.

It must be noted that the prescribed evaluation frameworks apply for the first two terms as well as for the final result. No ministerial examination will take place.

Achievement record for the certification of studies for students in Secondary IV and V

For Secondary IV and V students, an achievement record (official report card) must be produced by the Ministère. For each competency, the final result on the report card must be indicated in the Charlemagne system by educational institutions. This result is given as a percentage, will be processed in the Charlemagne system and will then be changed to "Pass" (P) or "Fail" (F). These entries will be indicated on the achievement record. The entry "successful completion of the program" will allow students to obtain the credits provided for under the basic school regulation.

To help with the implementation of these changes in your institution, you will soon be provided with an information sheet intended for parents, as well as one intended for school administrations and teachers. I encourage you to use these information sheets for communication purposes.

Changes to the *Basic adult general education regulation* and the *Basic vocational training regulation* as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

The amendments to the *Basic adult general education regulation* and the *Basic vocational training regulation* have also been enacted. They allow adult learners and vocational training students to obtain their official diploma, certificate or attestation in order to continue their educational paths or to enter the job market. The changes to these basic regulations also make it possible for certain students to continue to benefit from a free education, under certain conditions.

In Adult General Education, the changes concern the evaluation of learning and the certification of studies leading to a Training Certificate in Sociovocational Integration of Adults or a Training Certificate for a Semiskilled Trade. In both cases, the number of hours required for the training has been adjusted to take into account adult learners who began their training before March 14, 2020 (550 hours instead of 900 hours).

In Vocational Training, the changes also concern the evaluation of learning and the certification of studies. The modifications to the basic regulation specify that for students who continue their concurrent general education, the general education will be subject to the rules of certification provided for in the applicable basic regulations that have been amended.

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In addition, the conditions allowing students to benefit from free educational services have also been revised, particularly so as to not penalize students who may not have successfully completed the development of a competency that was initiated before March 14, 2020.

Thank you for your collaboration.

Yours truly,

Eric Blackburn
Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education