

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

May 29, 2020

TO ALL EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS

The Québec government has adopted the *Ordering of measures to protect the health of the population amid the COVID-19 pandemic situation*. As I have done since the beginning of the current crisis that we have been facing together, I would like to provide information on the measures concerning the education network.

Basic regulations for preschool, elementary and secondary education, adult general education and vocational training

Given that several educational institutions have been closed since March 14, 2020, and because students' continued learning has taken on a varied of forms as a result, the *Basic school regulation for preschool, elementary and secondary education*, the *Basic adult general education regulation* and the *Basic vocational training regulation* have been modified with respect to the 2019-2020 school year.

The exact details of the modified basic regulations as well as the terms and conditions for the evaluation of learning will soon be communicated to you by the Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education.

Students with special needs

I am proud to announce that, starting June 1, 2020, new measures will be authorized for students with special needs in General Education in the Youth Sector and in Adult General Education.

Resumption of educational support services in classrooms

The Order provides for the organization and provision of educational support services in classrooms to students in all regions of Québec, including:

- Adult learners enrolled in social integration instructional services
- Adult learners enrolled in sociovocational integration instructional services
- Preschool, elementary- and secondary-school students with disabilities or severe behavioural issues who are enrolled in a public school providing regional or supra-regional schooling services or in a private educational institution specialized in special education (in the Montréal metropolitan community and the regional county municipality of Joliette)
- Secondary-school students enrolled in Pework Training or Training for a Semiskilled Trade

For these services, the number of students is limited to 15 per classroom, and a gradual return to school over two days is scheduled.

Implementation of respite services

The Order also provides for the implementation of new respite services by school boards, in collaboration with the health and social services network as well as volunteer community organizations, to support the more vulnerable students. The implementation of these services will take place in two stages: before the end of the school year for students whose school is closed, and during the summer break for all students in the youth sector throughout Québec.

Further information will be provided regarding the organization of these services.

Pedagogical support services for students in rehabilitation centres for young persons with adjustment problems or youth centres

Given that these students do not have easy access to distance education tools and present a higher risk of dropping out of school, the Order also provides for face-to-face pedagogical support services for young people at the elementary and secondary levels throughout Québec, limited to six students per group.

Observance of public health guidelines

The implementation of pedagogical support services in classrooms and respite services for vulnerable students and students with special needs fosters educational success and addresses the need for assistance expressed by parents.

All of these deconfinement measures are authorized and follow the guidelines issued by the public health authorities (e.g. hygiene measures, group limits, physical distancing). These measures must be strictly followed to allow students and school staff to continue their educational activities in a safe and secure environment.

In closing, I once again thank you for the exceptional work you and your teams are accomplishing on a daily basis in order to offer Québec's students a high-quality education despite the extraordinary circumstances we are facing.

Yours truly,

Jean-François Roberge
Minister of Education and Higher Education