

# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

June 3, 2020

TO ADMINISTRATORS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

**Subject: *Health Care Facility Patient Service Support Skills Training Certificate, summer classes and learning camps aimed at supporting the success of the most vulnerable students***

First, I want you to know that I am fully aware of the enormous efforts that you and your teams have been making since the beginning of the pandemic. You have been working tirelessly to ensure that our students have access to quality education, and I would like to thank you wholeheartedly.

As I have become accustomed to doing since the beginning of the crisis we are going through, I will share with you the new information available on the organization of educational services.

## ***Health Care Facility Patient Service Support Skills Training Certificate***

As you are aware, jointly with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur has developed an accelerated training program leading to employment as a CHSLD (residential and long-term care centres) orderly. Our goal is to train 10 000 people this summer, thus ensuring that they are able to work in a CHSLD by September. The courses, which will begin on June 15 and continue on an intensive basis over a three-month period, will be offered by teachers. I can confirm that these teachers will be entitled to a 10% salary increase in order to help boost recruitment.

## **Summer classes**

I would also like to inform you that the Québec government has obtained authorization from the Direction générale de la santé publique to proceed with the limited reopening of schools in order to allow students to attend summer classes in person.

As is the case every year, these classes will allow Secondary IV and V students who have failed a course required for the certification of studies or a prerequisite to rectify the situation and continue their studies. Some students may also find themselves in a situation in which no mark was entered on their report card, either due to an illness or because of the school operating on a semester basis. These summer classes will also help the students remedy their situation.

These classes are of particular importance in the current context. The first summer classes will begin in early July, in accordance with the health guidelines issued by the Direction générale de la santé publique, which were outlined in previous communications.

Since ministerial examinations have been cancelled, students will be able to obtain the credits they need to continue their studies or obtain their secondary school diploma by successfully completing the local Secondary IV and V examinations. The evaluation of learning will be based on these local examinations and will therefore allow students to receive a certification of studies for Secondary IV or V.

## **Learning camps**

In a previous communication from the Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education, you were informed of our commitment to set up, with your help, learning camps to give vulnerable students the opportunity to review essential knowledge in certain subjects. I would like to provide a few clarifications regarding this new option.

To the extent that human and material resources permit, these learning camps could be open to vulnerable students who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to return to school this year, and specifically to:

- elementary school students in schools located in the Montréal metropolitan community, the regional county municipality of Joliette and the town of l'Épiphanie
- secondary school students throughout the Québec school system

Please note that the authorization obtained from the Direction générale de la santé publique will be in effect as of June 8, 2020. You can therefore set up learning camps as of that date, if you are able to do so and deem it necessary based on the needs expressed in your community.

Students will attend these learning camps on a voluntary basis and by invitation only. Unlike the summer classes, no formal evaluation of learning will be conducted in learning camps.

Groups formed by June 30, 2020, must consist of a maximum of 10 students. The school service centres will identify the services they wish to provide.

It is important to note that, while the organization of these learning camps provides you with an additional tool to support vulnerable students, it is not mandatory that they be implemented. Learning camps are not to replace the excellent local initiatives already being carried out in many schools.

Since the start of the pandemic, you have shown immense creativity and an extraordinary ability to adapt. I want you to know that I have complete confidence in your capacity to provide services tailored to the needs of your vulnerable students.

Yours truly,

Jean-François Roberge  
Minister of Education and Higher Education