



January 24, 2020

Dear Near North District School Board Families,

RE: Impact of Labour Action on Reports Cards and IEP's

As you know, elementary and secondary teachers in Ontario are currently taking part in a legal job action. This means that they are able to withdraw services, up to and including a full withdrawal—strike. Current job action being taken by Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) will have an impact on Kindergarten Communication of Learning, Reports, Elementary and Secondary Report Cards as well as Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in school boards across the province.

Here's what you can expect in the Near North District School Board:

**Individual Education Plans (IEPs)**

IEPs will be updated with goals and expectations. For students who are on alternative expectations, teachers will provide a comment to administrators for each of the expectations. For students with IEPs who have accommodations and/or modifications, a mark will be reported to administration along with an indication that they have an IEP for that subject. IEPs will be updated but will not be provided to families at this time. As always, parents/guardians can contact their child's teachers to learn about their child's progress.

**Elementary Term One Report Cards**

The Near North District School Board's production of Report Cards for elementary students relies on the electronic inputting of data by teachers. While regular assessment practices continue, this term, per job sanctions, elementary teachers are writing and providing marks to their administrators but are not inputting them electronically. After exploring every possible solution, at this time, we are unable to provide parents/guardians with Term One Report Cards for elementary students.

Marks will also not be provided to families or students at this time. Beyond the logistical challenges, providing marks without comments and context would not be considered

fulsome feedback on student achievement of curriculum expectations. As always, parents/guardians can contact their child's teachers to learn about their child's progress.

### **Kindergarten Communication of Learning**

During this phase of work-to-rule, Kindergarten teachers will write, but not electronically input, a brief comment for each section of a student's Kindergarten Communication of Learning. Given this challenge, families will not receive a Kindergarten Communication of Learning for their child at this time. As always, families can contact their child's Kindergarten teacher and/or designated early childhood educator to discuss their child's growth in learning.

### **Secondary Semester One Report Cards**

Secondary teachers are inputting student marks electronically but are not writing Report Card comments. Semester One Report Cards will be provided for secondary students, with marks only, by Feb. 11, 2020. Grade 12 students' marks will be submitted to the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) and to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) on time so that students' post-secondary applications will not be negatively impacted.

We know how important report cards are to families and students, and that marks, learning skills and teacher comments are valued. At the same time, Report Cards are not the sole nor are they the most important records of achievement data we have for your child/teen. They are simply one update on progress.

As always, parents/guardians can contact their child/teen's teachers to learn about their growth and progress. We sincerely appreciate your continued understanding during this challenging time for public education in Ontario.

Craig Myles

Director of Education, Near North District School Board