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Dear parents, guardians and families,

We hope you, your family and your children are well. Our thoughts are with you as we all try to navigate this time of uncertainty and change.

Over the weekend, school divisions across Alberta were given direction by the provincial government about our funding, while classes remain cancelled. The Government of Alberta is reducing education funding for May and June of this school year. According to the province, they are taking this measure to reflect the cost of at-home learning for students as part of the government's overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been told this measure is temporary.

We know the weekend announcement leaves you with questions and unease. It was also a shock for us as a Board, because earlier this month the Minister of Education told Albertans school authorities would receive their full allotment of funding for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year.

We know that all of our staff have been essential in providing services to students while we have been quickly trying to adjust to offering connection and learning in an entirely new way. This measure will negatively impact how we can deliver education to students. We will do our best to protect the services we provide to our students, and we will need your help to make sure this funding cut and any potential layoffs are not permanent.

We believe continuity of education must be equitable for all children, and that means ensuring supports remain in place for every child. Responding to COVID-19 must include ensuring our children have a future after this crisis, and we cannot cut supports that leave some children behind. We are all in the fight against COVID-19 together.

We take great pride in the collaborative work culture that we have established as a Division. We value the significant contributions of all of our staff in supporting student learning. We have already heard from parents concerned about the support that will be available for their children during these challenging times.

During this uncertain time, Edmonton Public Schools is working hard to respond to all the changes that are happening. We appreciate your patience as we work through what this latest announcement means for our Division.

Education is critical for developing competent, contributing citizens and we will continue to do everything we can to support students. We are taking a close look at the implications of these funding reductions, in collaboration with our staff across the Division, and will update you with more information when we have it.

We encourage you to reach out to your elected Trustee if you have any questions or concerns.

Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees



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