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## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Darrel Robertson

Centre for Education  
1 Kingsway NW  
Edmonton AB T5H 4G9

T 780-429-8000  
F 780-429-8318  
E [info@epsb.ca](mailto:info@epsb.ca)

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Dear parents, guardians and families,

The past two weeks have been among some of the most challenging for Edmonton Public Schools. In a world filled with unease and uncertainty, we have collectively responded to the challenges in front of us to support our students in a new and innovative way. I am incredibly proud of the work we've done together with families, in small and large ways, to ensure our students remain connected, engaged and learning.

While tackling this new reality, our Division has been working to respond to the changes to the province's Education Continuity Plan. Earlier this month, the province announced a 14 per cent reduction in the Base Instruction Grants to all school divisions for May and June. These funds will be redirected to support the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Edmonton Public Schools, the impact is \$13.78 million from the Base Instruction Grant and \$3.76 million from transportation. This is a significant amount.

Over the last two weeks, our principals and central leaders have been taking a careful look at the work that needs to be done to support our students in their continued learning for the coming weeks and months ahead. We have also looked at other funding sources to minimize the impact. But there will be an impact to staffing across our Division.

A number of our valued colleagues, team members and friends have been identified for temporary layoff this month.

These decisions have been difficult. Every single one of our team members are needed to deliver high quality learning to students during normal operations. Together, we have an unrelenting focus on ensuring our children are successful. While these layoffs are temporary, I look forward to a future in which we can welcome our team back when in-person classes reconvene, after we beat COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools  
Edmonton Public Schools