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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

October 22, 2020

Dear parents, guardians and families,

Every year, students in Grade 6 and 9 write provincial achievement tests (PATs) in a variety of subjects, along with their peers across the province.

This past June, students did not write the exams, as they continued to learn at home. This school year, Edmonton Public Schools has decided to opt out of writing the provincial achievement tests in June.

As I have mentioned before, the 2020-2021 school year isn't typical. I know there are many challenges facing students and families and our Division takes the well-being and mental health of students very seriously. We have heard from many of our families and school communities that writing tests like this is adding pressure and anxiety. It is our hope that opting out of writing the PATs this year will help alleviate some of the stress students are experiencing as a result of COVID-19.

Provincial achievement tests are one part of a larger assessment plan that teachers take into consideration every year. Using their professional judgement, teachers assess student growth and achievement based on observations, conversations, assignments, tests and other measures. As with any other year, teachers will continue to provide regular and ongoing feedback to families about their child's growth and achievements.

If you have any questions, please talk to your school principal.

Regards,



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools