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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Darrel Robertson

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February 27, 2025

Dear parents, families and guardians,

We are writing to provide an update regarding the recent Ministerial Order issued by the Minister of Education.

Yesterday afternoon, we received an updated Ministerial Order that directs us to reassess our current contingency plans for student learning. This Order directs us to reassess our contingency plans and enable, where possible, the safe return of students to in-person learning. There are no timelines specified in the Ministerial Order.

What this means for learning

We are currently reviewing the updated Ministerial Order in detail and making the necessary adjustments to our contingency plans in the context of available staff. Adjusting contingency plans for 215 schools isn't a simple or quick process. As you know, all teachers and principals are participating in the Teachers' Convention today and tomorrow. Given the absence of leadership staff this week, it will take some time to adjust our contingency plans to meet requirements of the Order.

We need to make sure that staff are adequately trained to work in schools, in light of the revised contingency plan. We are also looking at options for regrouping and/or transitioning some students who do not require specialized supports to rotational at-home learning. These decisions will be made on a school-by-school, or class-by-class basis, based on available staff.

Working on plans to return students

It is important to emphasize that this will not be an immediate transition of all students back to in-person learning on Monday, March 3. Our goal is to have as many students learning in-person as soon as possible; however, we need to continue to examine our staffing complements and operational capacity to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students and staff. Unless you've heard from your school principal, your child's current learning arrangement remains in place for Monday, March 3.

Next steps

You will receive information from your school in the coming days.

We are committed to keeping you informed as much as possible during this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools