

# What you need to know about assessment, evaluation and reporting during COVID-19 school closures

We recognize that these are not normal times and that not all students are equitably well-positioned to learn from home. Some have limited access to technology. Others may have less support from family members because their parents/guardians are essential workers, and others may be struggling in other areas. All of this to say that educators understand the extremely difficult circumstances in which many of our families find themselves, and will assess and evaluate student learning, with care and compassion.

Our goal is to support every learner, not to penalize them for the circumstances that they find themselves in. At the same time, it is our expectation, and the Ministry of Education's expectation, that learning will continue and that students will do their best to complete all assigned work. We want students to be supported as they work towards their credits and well-prepared for their next level of education. We will do everything we can to support all learners to be successful.

## Will mid-term report cards be issued to secondary students?

Mid-term report cards will not be issued for all secondary students, including graduating students, as per ministry direction. **Mid-term marks will only be provided to graduating (grade 12) students** and will be reported to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) by April 27, 2020. Teachers will email mid-term marks directly to grade 12 students, and reach out by phone to those who may not yet have access to technology.

Mid-term marks will reflect work completed up until March 13, 2020. However, assessments completed through distance learning can be used to improve marks should students demonstrate further achievement of expectations. Teachers may provide opportunities for students to submit a missed and/or additional assignment to demonstrate their learning. Teachers can also adjust the weighting of assigned tasks in their determination of a mark, if needed.

## How will students be assessed/evaluated?

With care and compassion, teachers will assess and evaluate student learning during the closure. Students' marks will reflect work completed up until March 13, 2020, and will only improve if students demonstrate further achievement of curriculum expectations after April 6, 2020.

### Elementary – Kindergarten to grade 8

Teachers will use assessments to gather evidence of how students are progressing in their learning and will provide meaningful feedback to students to support their continuous and ongoing learning. Teachers will endeavor to conduct distance learning for all remaining strands in Mathematics, Social Studies, History and Geography, and Science and Technology. However, if it is not possible to evaluate a specific curriculum strand, that section of the Final Report Card will be left without a mark and a comment will indicate that the strand was not evaluated.

### Secondary – Grades 9 to 12

Secondary teachers will assign learning tasks, projects and culminating activities for assessment purposes. Teachers will communicate results and feedback to students about these marked assignments and results will inform students' final course marks.

## Are students at risk of not graduating?

The Government of Ontario has made it very clear that no student will have their graduation compromised by COVID-19. The Ministry of Education continues to work with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to ensure that there will be no barriers to accessing post-secondary education.

Visit [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org) to review  
**A Community of Care: Peel District School Board's Learning and Support Plan**

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## Will Final Report Cards be issued?

All school boards will issue final report cards, including the Kindergarten Communication of Learning, for all students in June 2020. Mid-term marks will be issued for graduating (grade 12) students only by April 27, 2020.

### Grades 1 to 8

Final grades and marks will reflect work completed and evaluation information gathered before March 13, 2020. Evidence of learning between now and June may be used to improve final grades in a subject area. Please note that marks will only improve if students demonstrate further achievement of expectations.

Reporting on *Learning Skills and Work Habits* should reflect information gathered prior to March 13, 2020. Teachers may choose to include comments on the final report card if they feel doing so would support the student's progress.

### Grades 9 to 12

Final marks will be reported in June 2020, and will be based on work completed until March 13, 2020, and after April 6, 2020. Only demonstrated improvements in learning will be taken into consideration when assessing a final mark.

Marks should represent the most accurate reflection of student work, based on what is reasonable and in the best interest of students during this time. Tasks will be assessed with a focus on improving student grades, given that distance learning is not an environment that is conducive to learning for all. Our goal is to support every learner, not to penalize them for the circumstances that they find themselves in. We want students to be supported as they work towards their credits and well-prepared for their next level of education. We will do everything we can to support all learners to be successful.

Reporting on *Learning Skills and Work Habits* should reflect information gathered prior to March 13, 2020. Teachers may choose to include comments on the final report card.

## Kindergarten Communication of Learning

The Kindergarten Communication of Learning will be based on educators' observations of key learning and growth in learning prior to March 13, 2020. Teachers may choose to include comments on growth in learning demonstrated during the school closure period when it is to the child's benefit.

## How will marks be provided for Civics and Citizenship and Career Studies half-credit courses?

For students enrolled in Civics and Citizenship and Career Studies half-credit courses in the second semester, their final mark for the half-credit course underway at the time of school closures will be based on work completed as of March 13, 2020. Where appropriate, teachers may adjust this mark in the best interest of students. Students are not required to complete any further culminating assignment for this course.

Teachers will email final marks for the completed half-credit course directly to students and will reach out by phone to students who may not yet have access to technology. The other half-credit course will start between April 9 and 14, 2020. Teachers will communicate the start date directly to students.

## Questions?

As always, students and families should connect with teachers directly if they have questions about assessment, evaluation and reporting, or any other class/course-related question. You can also direct questions to your vice-principal or principal, but please start with your teachers.