

June 10, 2020



## Educator Update this week

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## Deputy Minister video message to school staff

As you start your summer break, please see this [video message](#) to all school staff from the Deputy Minister of Education.

## Summer break

We would like to thank you for all your hard work and dedication during this school year. We acknowledge that it hasn't been an easy school year. We wish you a well-deserved break while you enjoy summer with your friends and family. It is important to take time to unwind, recharge and take time away from work.

As much as this has been a challenging time, you have all risen to the occasion and we hope that it has also been an opportunity to learn and develop new skills and teaching methods that we can carry with us into the 2020-21 school year.

Please review the attached Global Note from the Public Service Commission about planning vacation during COVID-19. As we are set to return to classes for the 2020-21 school year, please take this into consideration when planning your summer break and return for the start of school.

## Preparing for the 2020-21 school year

- **Returning to school in the Fall**

As we wrap up the 2019-20 school year, we have started planning for the start of the next school year. Based on the current information and situation, we are planning for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students to return to

classes in school, based on specific health and safety guidelines for K-12 public schools developed with Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Health and safety is our first priority. To ensure students and staff can return safely to school, the Department of Education's central administration will be working with school principals and staff to begin planning their operations to follow health and safety guidance for K-12 public schools and to ensure they meet the unique needs and context of their school community. Initial guidance has been provided to start this planning and more detailed health and safety guidelines will also be developed before the start of the 2020-21 school year.

The Deputy Minister of Education, Nicole Morgan has sent all school-based staff a letter directly to provide more information on planning for next school year. We encourage you all to review the letter sent from the Deputy Minister and the documents that were attached, including:

- Planning for the 2020-21 school year: Information for school staff
- Health and safety guidance for K-12 public schools

More information is also available on Yukon.ca on the [Planning for the 2020-21 school year web page](#).

- **Blended learning**

Even though we are planning on K-12 students to return to classes at the start of the school year, we will all need to keep our plans flexible. Since April, we have all been adapting to distance learning, developing new skills and learning to use new teaching tools. These practices will be carried into the new school year along with face-to-face instruction. Blended learning combines face-to-face instruction with online digitally-managed content, instruction and feedback with an element of student control that allows for flexibility. You have already done a tremendous amount of work in that direction and our new curriculum is well suited for this type of learning. We have prepared lots of resources to help you with blended learning tools and practices. More information on [blended learning](#) and more resources in the [Learning Continuity Toolkit](#).

## Curriculum

- **2004 Graduation Program Closes June 30, 2020**

The new B.C. Graduation Program was introduced on July 1, 2018, with the implementation of new Grade 10 curriculum. New Grade 11 and Grade 12 curriculum was implemented on July 1, 2019, which was one of the final components in the transition from the 2004 Graduation Program. With very few exceptions, most students are now on the B.C. Graduation Program. The 2004 Graduation Program will be closed as part of the standard practice of transitioning from one graduation program to another.

The department has communicated with all schools affected by this change.

- **Diversity and Multiculturalism Resources for Your Classroom**

The recent passing of George Floyd and the protests taking place around the world demonstrate the critical importance of teaching students about diversity, multiculturalism and minority rights. In Yukon there are several resources available to address these important topics in your classroom.

For example, the [Social Studies curriculum](#), as well as elective courses such as [Social Justice 12](#), allow students to develop a deep understanding of our society in all its diversity and complexity, and explore the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizens.

Also, the “expect respect & a safe education” or [\(erase\) website](#) is another resource. This website promotes inclusion and supports the diversity of all students through activities such as providing learning opportunities for educators, community partners and parents on topics related to student health and wellness.

## Professional learning opportunities

- **On-going Online PD Opportunities for June - August**

Check out [Online Opportunities for June - August](#). This will take you to the Rapid Identity login page. You will need your Rapid ID credentials (yesnet email address) and your Rapid ID Password. Continue to check the link for professional learning opportunities over the months ahead.

- **Recorded PD day sessions available online**

You can review recorded videos of sessions from the [April 4, 2020 PD day](#), [May 15, 2020 PD day](#) and the [June 10, 2020 PD day](#).

- **Living with ADHD and Learning Disabilities: Turning Perceived Disadvantages into Advantages with Aaron Bailey Wednesdays at 6 PM**

Join Aaron for a glimpse into the life of a person with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Learning Disabilities (LD's), Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and Depression. Learn what it's like living with multiple disabilities: the struggles, the triumphs, and the important lessons, tools, and strategies.

June 17: Fidget On! Strategies for ADHD and LD's [Facebook event](#)

Reserve your spot for each of these sessions through the Facebook events.

Not on Facebook? Email Stephanie at [ed@LDAYukon.com](mailto:ed@LDAYukon.com) to join in.

- **Culturally Responsive Math Webinar Series**

[Nelson's Culturally Responsive Math free webinar series](#) brings together many educational and community leaders in Indigenous Education and provides you with the opportunity to discover Western mathematics in the heart of Indigenous culture.

## Other opportunities for schools

- **School bus registration**

Parents can register by June 19, 2020 to reserve their child's seat by visiting [yukon.ca/bus](http://yukon.ca/bus)

For more information, email [student.transportation@gov.yk.ca](mailto:student.transportation@gov.yk.ca) or 667-5172.

- **[Yukon Excellence in Education Award](#)**: Deadline for nominations extended to Friday, June 12, 2020

- **[Council of the Federation Literacy Award](#)**: Deadline for nominations is Monday, June 15, 2020

## Resources for educators

- **Learning Continuity Toolkit**

You will find lots of helpful resources developed to support you with various technology platforms that are sanctioned and supported by Yukon Department of Education. [English](#) / [French](#)

- **Sharepoint site for Education staff**

The Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements and all other relevant documents continue to be available in the [Documents for Education Staff site](#).

## Action items for consideration

- Watch this [video message](#) to all school staff from the Deputy Minister of Education
- Review the attached Global Note about planning vacation during COVID-19
- Find more information on Yukon.ca on the [Planning for the 2020-21 school year web page](#)
- Learn more about [blended learning](#) and find resources and tools in the [Learning Continuity Toolkit](#)
- Add more resources and activities on diversity and multiculturalism to your classroom: [Social Studies curriculum](#), [Social Justice 12](#), [\(erase\) website](#)
- Check out [Online Opportunities for June - August](#)
- review recorded videos of sessions from the [April 4, 2020 PD day](#), [May 15, 2020 PD day](#) and the [June 10, 2020 PD day](#).
- Learn more about ADHD learning disabilities through these [Facebook event](#) sessions. If you are not on Facebook, email Stephanie at [ed@LDAYukon.com](mailto:ed@LDAYukon.com)
- Watch [Nelson's Culturally Responsive Math free webinar series](#)
- Register for school bus by June 19, 2020 by visiting [yukon.ca/bus](http://yukon.ca/bus)  
For more information, you can email [student.transportation@gov.yk.ca](mailto:student.transportation@gov.yk.ca) or 667-5172.
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- Find lots of important resources and documents in the [Learning Continuity Toolkit. Available in French](#)
- Visit the [Yukonnect site for Education Staff](#)