



June 23, 2016

Dear parents,

As you know, education in BC has been undergoing many changes. These changes are the result of years of research and collaboration between our education partners and the Ministry of Education. The purpose of this letter is to highlight some of these changes as we break for the summer. One of the most significant changes for our secondary schools relates to provincial exams. We anticipate that these changes will alter the exam structure in our district, as well as the calendar at the end of January and in June of next year.

### **Provincial Exams**

Historically, students in British Columbia were assessed in the following areas:

- Grade 10: English, Math and Science;
- Grade 11: Social Studies; and
- Grade 12: English.

A student's final grade was always a blend of the teacher assessments and the provincial exam. In grades 10 and 11, the teacher's classroom-based assessments counted for 80% of a student's final grade, and the exam counted for 20%. In grade 12, the teacher's assessment counted for 60%, and the exam counted for 40%. The provincial exams themselves have always been designed and marked by teachers.

Beginning in 2016/17 there will be no provincial exams in grade 10. Rather than 80% of a student's mark being from the teacher, 100% of the mark will be based on the teacher's assessments. This reaffirms our trust in teachers' classroom based assessments which are based on the standards in our provincial curriculum. Starting 2016/17 in grades 11 and 12, students will take two new provincial exams, one in numeracy (Math) and one in literacy (English). Students in grade 12 will still take the English 12 provincial exam in 2016/17.

For students headed to post-secondary institutions, it is important to note that these changes were established in partnership with our major universities. Their advice has helped to shape these changes, and they will play a critical role in developing the new provincial exam structure.

### **Calendar Changes**

Parents and students are accustomed to a "Provincial Exam Schedule" at the end of January, and again in June. While this is technically instructional time, not all students were in attendance in our middle and secondary schools during this time period. The above changes to the provincial exams will certainly impact how school districts now organize their schedules at the end of semesters and at the end of the year. We are consulting with and getting feedback from our administrators and teachers to discuss the best designs for this period of time.



**Chilliwack  
School District**

**Partners in Learning!**

As stated above, our teachers and administrators have always been central to the process of creating and marking provincial exams. Their feedback is essential to the direction the district will take in ensuring our students meet the standards outlined in the new provincial curriculum. These recommendations will be brought forward to the Board of Education early this fall, and will be communicated to parents shortly thereafter.

Thank you for your active interest in the success of our students.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn Novak". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Evelyn Novak  
Superintendent of Schools

EN/cp