

April 8, 2020

To all Educational Assistants:

As you are aware, we are navigating our way through unprecedented times and striving to establish and maintain continuity of services in a fast changing environment. You also are likely aware that the provincial government has mandated that public school districts across B.C. follow these four principles:

- 1) Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
- 2) Provide the services needed to support children of our essential workers.
- 3) Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
- 4) Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

To date we have made significant progress on the continuity of learning as well as the provision of meals, through the deployment of staff whose job description fit these areas of need. Our area of greatest need is supporting the children of essential services workers and implementing a phased-in program of care at Learning & Care Centers in a variety of schools across the district. In order to support this service, we will be relying on Education Assistants to provide the care to the essential services workers who are critical to the continued health and function of our community. These staff will be supported by a comprehensive safety plan, including Exposure Control Plans for each site, an onsite Administrator, and other supports such as First Aid Attendants and Custodial support.

This week we piloted the first two schools and received valued insight and feedback from those Education Assistants who expressed interest and were redeployed. We thank those who expressed interest. Our next step is to fill numerous other positions that are needed. Our staff are essential to supporting these efforts, and meeting these needs throughout our district.

You will be contacted starting tomorrow and in the upcoming weeks to accept this very important role. We will be start by redeploying those who are the most junior on the seniority list and working up in seniority. Education Assistants will work a maximum of four hour shifts – Monday to Friday from 8:30-12:30 or 12:30-4:30. The shifts are currently in the morning and the afternoons. Please be assured we have a team of four experts assessing each site and their priority is to ensure that ***the safety and health of staff is at the forefront*** in the planning of this service. We adhere to guidelines provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control and the B.C. Ministry of Health.

You can and will make a significant contribution in your role as we work together to get through this critical time. We thank you for your continued commitment to our students and families.

If you have elementary aged children of your own and do not have childcare, please advise the district representative that contacts you and we will make accommodations for your family.

For more details, please read this [information](#) on the Learning and Care Centres.

Sincerely,

Tim Davie
Deputy Superintendent

Patricia Trick
Executive Director of Human Resources

Cc: Scott Saywell, Superintendent
Rob Zver, President, CUPE 606