



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Red Deer-North*

**To: Presidents of Alberta Post-Secondary Institutions**

October 27, 2021

Dear colleagues:

When the 2021/2022 school year plan was released, Alberta Education announced that diploma exams would be mandatory and worth 30% of a student's official mark. That said, given there are ongoing challenges related to the pandemic, we continue to explore options to make the return to in-person learning as smooth as possible and we will make adjustments to the school plan for 2021/22 as required.

We've heard from our K-12 education stakeholders who have indicated that while they understand the value of diploma exams, students have also experienced unprecedented disruptions to their learning over the past two years.

As such, Alberta's government has listened to students, parents and teachers and determined that changing the weighting of diploma exams to 10% for the 2021-2022 school year will help ensure provincial standards are maintained while taking into account the learning disruptions that have occurred since March 2020. The weighting of diploma exams will return to 30%, effective September 1, 2022. More information about this temporary change to the weighting of diploma exams is posted on [Alberta Education's website](#).

The decision to make diploma exams optional for all five writing periods in the 2020/2021 school year ensured that students from Alberta who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic were not at a disadvantage when it came to being accepted by post-secondary institutions in the province.

We are writing today asking that you consider taking the ongoing impacts to student learning into consideration when reviewing Alberta students' applications for future intakes.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and dedication to Alberta students.

Sincerely,

Adriana LaGrange  
Minister of Education

Demetrios Nicolaidis  
Minister of Advanced Education