



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING ADDENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021

6:00 PM

FORUM- PCTC AND ZOOM

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

d. **ATTACHMENT TO: 2021-2022 Calendar Update**

(Peter Jory/Gillian Wilson)

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New Ministerial Orders Reduce Instructional Hours for 2021/22 in response to National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

On August 12, 2021, the Minister of Education, Jennifer Whiteside, issued Ministerial Orders M321/21 and M322/21 (“Ministerial Orders”). Order M321/21 amends the School Calendar Regulation, and Order M322/21 amends the Educational Standards Order.

Together, these Ministerial Orders provide the required hours of instruction for students in the 2021/2022 school year, at public and independent schools, respectively. Notably, these changes are made against the backdrop of the federal government’s newly proclaimed **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation** on September 30 and the recent provincial government announcement that it has advised public sector employers to honour this day and therefore that “most schools” will be closed that day.

For independent schools, the required hours of instruction have been reduced by **5** hours for the 2021/2022 school year as follows:

- For students in half day kindergarten, the required hours of instruction have been reduced from **450** in the 2020/2021 school year to **447.5** in the 2021/2022 school year; and
- For all other students, including students in full day kindergarten, the required hours of instructions have been reduced from **850** in the 2020/2021 school year to **845** in the 2021/2022 school year.

For public schools, the required hours of instruction have been reduced by **5** hours for the 2021/2022 school year as follows:

- For students in kindergarten, the required hours of instruction have been reduced from **853** in the 2020/2021 school year to **848** in the 2021/2022 school year;
- For students in grades 1 to 7, the required hours of instruction have been reduced from **878** in the 2020/2021 school year to **873** in the 2021/2022 school year;
- For students in grades 8 to 12, the required hours of instruction have been reduced from **952** in the 2020/2021 school year to **947** in the 2021/2022 school year.

In addition, the School Calendar Regulation provisions concerning notice to a change in a school calendar have been amended. The requirement for a board to make proposed amendments to a school calendar publicly available at least one month before making the amendments does not apply to a board that amends the school calendar in 2021/2022 to include the newly proclaimed National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

In summary, the Ministerial Orders have reduced the hours of instruction applicable to students in the province for the 2021/2022 school year and relaxed notice obligations concerning amendments to school calendars to allow for school closures on the newly proclaimed National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.