

February 25, 2021

**Subject: Ontario School Year Calendar (OSYC)**

Good Afternoon,

Board are asked to update their electronic 2020-21 school year calendar submissions by March 31, 2021 to ensure that both board and ministry data is complete and accurate for the 2020-21 school year.

Updates to existing school year calendars must be completed through the previous Ontario School Year Calendar (OSYC) application available at <https://edcs.tcu.gov.on.ca/OSYC/Welcome.aspx>.

To facilitate this process, please note that all submitted calendars for 2020-21 will revert to 'DRAFT' status in the OSYC application to allow for editing of these calendars.

The following updates are required:

**1) First instructional day**

Boards are not required to update the 'first day with students' if it is different from the date identified in calendars that were submitted by the July 24, 2020 deadline. In the OSYC application, the 'First Day with Students' refers to the first instructional day in the school year. However, if the scheduled 'first day with students' was replaced by a Professional Activity day or a board designated holiday, boards are asked to update affected calendars accordingly.

**1) Examination days**

Boards that modified their examination day schedules due to a revised format (e.g. quadmester, octomester, etc.) are asked to update affected calendars to reflect the new examination day schedules.

**2) Board designated holidays and Professional Activity Days**

Boards that modified their board designated holidays or changed Professional Activity day dates are asked to resubmit affected calendars to reflect the updated information.

**3) March Break**

As per the recent amendments to Regulation 304 under the *Education Act*, boards are asked to change the March Break dates from March 15-19 to April 12-16. If a board with a modified calendar had scheduled an additional week in March as a holiday, that week must be scheduled on or after April 19 (i.e. after

the initial April 12-16 break). If the board identified March 12 or 22 as a holiday in addition to March 15-19, that day may remain a holiday and proceed as planned.

### **Professional Activity (PA) Day Descriptions**

On August 12, 2020, the topics for the three mandatory PA days prior to the first day of student instruction were announced. In addition, a half PA day to be scheduled before December 31, 2020 was centrally negotiated for certain federations. Boards are asked to update and resubmit the content of their PA day descriptions in the Ontario School Year Calendar application to reflect the dates on which the following topics were addressed:

- **One (1) full PA day:**
  - Health and safety protocols in response to COVID-19
- **Two (2) PA days (topics to be addressed in an integrated manner):**
  - Student mental health, well-being and anti-bullying
  - Remote and online learning strategies and tools
  - An introduction to anti-racism and anti-discrimination training that will continue throughout the 2020-21 school year
  - An introduction to the new elementary math curriculum and fundamental math concepts/skills
- **One (1) half-day:**
  - Violence prevention and violent incident reporting
  - Centrally negotiated for the following federations:
    - ETFO and OSSTF – to occur prior to December 31, 2020
    - AEFO – to be scheduled during the 2020-2021 school year

Regional offices will review all submissions and communicate individually with boards if necessary. Boards will receive an electronic communication confirming that their resubmission has been reviewed.