

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for districts that do not have local agreement on marking of provincial exams

Labour Relations Board (LRB) Issues Further Order: Marking of Provincial Exams

We received reports this morning about a number of outstanding issues with respect to provincial exam marking schedules, primarily concerning local teachers' associations' questions about which administrators are qualified to teach in accordance with the LRB's most recent order and concerning the amount of marking that should be expected of those administrators in place of teachers.

At about the same time, the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) filed an emergency application with the LRB (without prior notice or discussions with BCPSEA) seeking various orders with respect to these matters and the marking of English 10 and Social Studies 11 provincial exams. After a brief telephone conference hearing, the LRB issued a further letter (copy attached) late this afternoon, which provides as follows:

"The direction to mark the exams as scheduled must be given full effect. To that end, to the extent to which any further clarity may be required, pursuant to B21/2012, BCTF members are directed to mark the English 10 and Socials 11 provincial exams as they have in the past.

I reiterate that administrators are to be used to the best extent possible in the marking of exams.

I would expect the marking to be given the priority it deserves bearing in mind that administrators will have a number of other duties to attend to during this labour dispute in the context of a controlled strike.

I expect the parties to take all reasonable steps to ensure the marking is undertaken as currently scheduled. I also expect the parties to make every reasonable effort to be flexible and to, in good faith, attempt to find quick solutions to any differences they may have regarding giving full effect to B21/2012, at the local level."

School districts that do not already have agreement with their local teachers' association should now take the following steps to ensure compliance with the LRB Order:

1. Review the marking rosters/schedules you have established to ensure/confirm that qualified administrators are being used "to the best extent possible" with marking treated as a priority.
2. If necessary, issue revised marking rosters/schedules if the above review results in any changes. If no changes are necessary then issue your original marking rosters/schedules.

3. Direct teachers to mark in accordance with the established marking rosters/schedules, including giving them notice that they risk discipline should they fail to comply with the direction.
4. Consider in good faith any concern raised by a teacher or local teachers' association about the roster/schedule and (a) make changes that can occur without risking the timely conduct or completion of marking; and (b) advise the local teachers' association if changes cannot be made and reiterate any directions.
5. Immediately notify your BCPSEA labour relations liaison of any teacher refusal to follow the direction issued.

Questions

School districts with questions regarding essential services should contact:

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Please direct media and public requests to:

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