



School Team Bulletin

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1. School Calendar Regulations: 2013-2014

Effective July 1, 2013, amendments to the School Calendar Regulation altered the definition of instruction with respect to educational programs.

What does this mean for Secondary schools?

- Secondary schools are required to provide 952 hours of instruction (rather than days in session).
- Formerly, examination days were deemed to be instructional time/days in session, even if students were not writing exams.
- Now, on examination days, the Regulation requires schools to offer students who are not writing examinations some form of learning activity in order to meet the requisite number of instructional hours.
- All schools must provide educational opportunities for all students up to and including June 26.
- All self-contained special education programs and self-contained alternate programs will be in session until June 26.

What will the process look like for addressing these changes?

- Staff Reps are to inform all teachers of the Regulation changes. Calling a Staff Organization meeting may be the most effective method.
- Teachers will provide input as to their school's unique needs to their Principal through Staff Committee and its processes.
- A working group of School-based Administrators will develop draft implementation guidelines which will be reviewed at the November area meeting of administrators.
- Human Resources will be consulting with the VSTA on the process ensuring they are kept up to date and to receive their feedback.

2. District Technology Plans

The VSTA is working to ensure that the District adheres to the Collective Agreement provisions regarding consultation and committee representation. *If any teacher is approached, formally or informally, to provide input on the Board's technology plans, they are asked to contact the VSTA office immediately.*

3. Bargaining Update: Opportunity for input

The BCTF is returning to the provincial bargaining table on October 17, 2013.

Currently, the BCTF has put forth the following proposals based on the bargaining objectives that were passed last fall.

- Cost of living increases and catch ups
- Grid reduction to eight steps
- Restoration of class size/composition limits and staffing ratios for specialist teachers
- Improvements in EHB and dental plans, pregnancy and parental leave top up, TTOC pay and callout provisions, preparation time and PD funding.

The BCTF seeks further input from members on our bargaining strategy. This input will be reviewed and become part of the discussion at the Fall Representative Assembly of the BCTF (November 1-2, 2013).

Three **confidential** questions and a feedback form are posted at: bctf.ca/myBCTF/submissionform.aspx?ekfrm=30973.

This is accessed through myportal on the BCTF website and is password protected. If you have not yet signed up for myportal, log onto www.bctf.ca and follow the instructions for registering.

All submissions must be received by October 28, 2013.