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October 17, 2025

Dear Peace River School Division Families,

I am writing to you today to provide an important update regarding the November Diploma Examinations, as we navigate the ongoing challenges associated with the Alberta Teachers' Strike. Our primary commitment remains the success, well-being, and academic future of every student, especially those nearing graduation.

We have received notification from the Government of Alberta, released today, regarding a significant change for the upcoming November Diploma Examination session.

As students have now experienced a significant loss of instructional time because of the labour action, the Minister of Education has announced that the November 2025 Diploma Examinations will be optional for all students provincially. This means students are automatically exempted from writing the November diploma exams.

For students who choose not to write the exams, their final course grade will be based entirely on the school-awarded mark provided by their teacher (a final grade weighted 100% on the school mark). Furthermore, the Minister of Education has confirmed that choosing not to write the November diploma exams will not negatively affect a student's ability to apply to, be accepted by, or attend post-secondary institutions after graduation. For students who wish to write the November diploma exams, they may request to do so. We will work within the Government of Alberta parameters to accommodate all such requests.

The above announced measures provide necessary flexibility for our students to complete courses and to meet graduation requirements. We continue to hope for a swift and fair resolution to the current labour dispute and thank you for your ongoing patience, understanding, and support for your children during this challenging period.

Sincerely,

Jeff Thompson, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools