



TO: Parents of Private School Students

DATE: 01/04/2020

SUBJECT

CONTINUATION OF DISTANCE LEARNING FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Dear Parents,

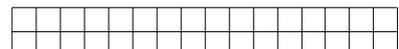
At the start of this academic year, students, parents, and teachers in Abu Dhabi were looking forward to a new school year ahead. The COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world in a matter of months and we are blessed to be in a country that reacted swiftly to keep us safe. Distance learning was not a choice, it was a necessity. Distance learning is not a downgrade from the education you aspire for your children, it's a show of triumph and resilience against adversity, attesting to the fact that we all believe to our core, in the basic right of every child to a quality education.

Across all private schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, more than 25,000 teachers and education staff have been fully committed and working tirelessly to maintain the continuity of learning while struggling with the same challenges facing your families as well. In close collaboration with ADEK and the technology and communication partners who offered their assistance, an action plan was set in motion in record time.

This has been a learning curve for all of us and we are proud of what has been achieved in a short period of time and appreciate the tremendous efforts our teachers continue to put in, to ensure our children proceed with their education.

We are equally proud and grateful for the time and effort you have invested at home to help your children while also managing your work remotely. This wouldn't have been possible without you.

We are pleased to share with you that the feedback we have received from parents and students has thus far been mostly positive. Parental insights from week 1 of distance learning survey showed that, to date, Abu Dhabi parents are taking the challenges in stride thanks to the ongoing support of their schools and teachers, as more than 60% reported that educators have been in close contact with them at least once and often more than twice daily. 70% of parents felt they received the educational and IT support they needed through a designated contact person in their school. More than half also reported being satisfied with the quality of teacher feedback to their child. Parents who took the survey, also requested to reduce the workload, to have more flexibility with timelines and more live streaming of classes. We are continuously working with schools to facilitate solutions to address and resolve these needs.





The Ministry of Education announced recently its decision regarding tuition fees, asking families to support their schools and settle outstanding payments. It is important to note that the main costs of a school go to teaching staff who are essential to your child's education and the success of the school. These individuals remain committed, and are working overtime across the entire week (weekend included), to formulate the lessons, while adjusting to a new method of teaching and addressing new challenges that arise. The remaining cost goes to maintaining IT infrastructure, school premises and the additional support staff who are an integral part of the school community.

Current times require compromise on both the part of private schools and parents and paying your fees ensures that your children's school remains resilient and can continue to sustain learning for all students. Should you choose to not pay the fees, you risk compromising your school's ability to deliver the quality of education expected and your child's ability to graduate the academic year.

While it is at the discretion of private schools, to offer reduced fees or credit for the next academic year, we appreciate that some families will face financial constraints due to adverse circumstances. We urge you to reach out to your schools for resolution and assistance.

ADEK continues to closely monitor and support both parents and private schools throughout this journey. To date, and with the support of our partners, we have provided 15,510 tablets, 7,000 SIM cards and 3,000 MIFI devices. We have launched a knowledge-sharing platform with more than 1,000 teaching resources and have whitelisted 297 websites for your children. We have also provided trainings and access to platforms such as Amazon Web Services, ALEF education, Renaissance, Pearson, Myon and Mathletics. In addition, our Parents Hotline remains active. We welcome your feedback and remain committed to empowering education and empowering minds.

We are confident that this situation is temporary and will come to an end. In difficult times, keeping the big picture in mind and maintaining solidarity and community cohesion will bring us closer together as colleagues, as families and as a society and it is proof that we are indeed, stronger together.

Thank you for your continued support.

