

January 2022

## **Joint APEEE position (EEBIII, EEBI, EEBII, EEBIV) on Distance Teaching and Distance Learning Policy**

### CONSIDERING

- the continuation of the pandemic and constant rise in COVID-19 positive or quarantined pupils being unable to follow classes in situ, but physically able to follow classes on line;
- the recent decisions of the Belgian authorities regarding the management of COVID 19 at schools and the abolition of Emergency Brakes in particular;
- the need to support learning of all students and avoid further accumulation of learning gaps due to the pandemic;
- the adoption of the Distance Teaching and Learning Policy (2020-09-D-10-en-5) by the Board of Governors on 29 March 2021 (hereinafter “the Policy”), in particular part II.B “*Vulnerable or quarantined pupils*”, which describes a number of ways for those pupils to receive pedagogical continuity via regular contacts;
- the existence and use of Teams as a distance learning tool for students in EEB3 in accordance with the Policy.

As parents of the European School Brussels 3, **we call upon the School management** to:

- assess the ever-growing numbers of students remaining at home and review internally the minimum conditions for access to Distance Learning set out in the 2021 Policy albeit the continuation of onsite schooling (Scenario 1);
- ensure that all vulnerable or quarantined pupils, including those needing educational support, receive pedagogical continuity in a harmonised way, regardless of the lesson and the level they are following;
- support the continuity of all students’ learning by ensuring that **all vulnerable or quarantined pupils are given access by default to live online lessons and are allowed to follow classes via Teams regardless of the duration of the quarantine period**;
- ensure the existence of adequate, readily available and prepared hardware and software, so that teachers can use it immediately upon entry to their classrooms without delaying the educational activities that take place in situ;
- ensure that all teachers make classwork and homework available via SMS and/or TEAMS as a “stable foundation in each scenario” (2020-09-D-10-en-5; section D);
- Continue the identification of teaching and learning gaps caused by the continuous disruptions of the in-situ teaching and learning in all classes, levels and subjects and take corrective action when necessary.

**We call upon the Secretary General and the Board of Governors to:**

- take all necessary actions **to urgently review Scenario 1** of the Policy (2020-09-D-10-en-5) and in particular part II.B on quarantined and vulnerable students, **ensuring that all quarantined students have access to Distance Learning during their quarantine period regardless of the duration of their quarantine.**