

August 27, 2020

Directors of Education

Re: Classroom Video Streaming

As the days count down to the re-opening of schools and classrooms, we appreciate the multitude of factors that you have had to attend to in order to ensure the safety and well-being of your students and staff. We are also working through these issues, as we receive many calls from teachers who have questions about the implementation of various facility and instructional procedures.

It has come to our attention that one of the strategies under consideration is that of live video streaming of classroom instruction for the benefit of students who do not report to school whether by choice or by medical order.

While we understand that there is no simple solution to the provision of instructional support to non-attending students, we have significant concerns about live video streaming as it relates to the personal privacy of both students and staff. Recent experience with privacy matters has served to reinforce the legal and professional obligations of school boards and teachers to prevent any possible breach of privacy of students and staff.

Livestreaming further elevates the vulnerability of teachers, students and the school to criticism and complaint based on a very narrow view of what is actually going on in the classroom. We believe this risk, and the needs of non-attending students, can be better managed through other service delivery mechanisms and welcome an opportunity to explore these options with our sector partners.

We encourage our members as they endeavour to provide the highest level of service while attending to their professional and legal obligations and look forward to continued sector collaboration as we strive to meet the educational needs of students while protecting the privacy of all those involved.

Sincerely,

Randy Schmaltz  
Executive Director

RS/lph