



K-12 shift to at-home learning May 7-25

Information Sheet

Transition dates and logistics

Who does this shift apply to?

- This temporary shift to at-home/online learning applies to all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students across the province effective May 7 to May 25.

For schools already moved to at-home, will they be able to come back on their original timeline, or are all these extended to May 25 now?

- All schools, even those that have already shifted, will continue learning at-home until May 25

If there are no cases in the school can it remain open?

- This shift is intended to provide a COVID-19 reset within the education system and applies to all schools in the province – even those that currently do not have any cases.
- Not having any cases today does not mean that there won't be cases tomorrow.

Work arrangements

- Schools are expected to remain open to allow access to students and parents as needed.
- School authority offices that do not have students or learners are expected to follow guidance in CMOH order 12-2020. This order requires employers to have employees work from home wherever possible unless the employer determines the workers physical presence is required for effective operations.
- Work arrangements are discussions to have between the employer, which is the school authority, and their employees.
- When at work, employees must mask for all indoor settings, except in work stations or where two-metre physical distancing or adequate physical barriers are in place.
- In-school learning will also continue for students with disabilities who require specialized supports.

ECS

Will ECS operators and school board operated ECS programs continue to operate?

- Yes. ECS operators and school boards continue to offer their pre-K programming in school/on site. Kindergarten students are to shift to at-home learning.
- School boards and private ECS operators, can continue to request, on a case-by-case basis, that individual schools move temporarily to at-home learning due to operational reasons.

Will ECS operators that are in schools remain open?

- Yes. ECS operators continue to offer their pre-K programming in school/on site. Kindergarten students are to shift to at-home learning.

Will ECS operators that offer Kindergarten be required to have kindergarten learn at home?

- Yes. We recognize that many ECS operators provide Kindergarten programming as well as child care programs/out-of-school care.
- Government has indicated that all child care programs, including out-of-school care programs, can continue full-day operations during May 7 to 24, 2021 (where it is permitted by the school or facility where the program is located).
- From May 7 to 24, 2021, Kindergarten students with special needs are eligible to receive in-class supports.
- Kindergarten programs whose children do not have special needs must adhere to health measures regarding at-home learning.

Childcare facilities**Will schools that have or lease space to day care and/or childcare services on site remain open?**

- Government has indicated that all childcare programs, including out-of-school care programs, can continue full-day operations during May 7 to 24, 2021 (where it is permitted by the school or facility where the program is located).
- For day care or childcare services operating out of schools, we would ask that school boards keep the buildings operational.

Exemption to continue in-person learning**Will schools that are specialized for students with disabilities continue to operate (DSEPs)?**

- Students with disabilities requiring specialized supports will continue to receive those supports.
- Designated Special Education Private Schools (DSEPS) can remain open and continue to provide in-school supports.

How will students with disabilities be supported?

- We recognize that students with disabilities may require specialized supports – and they will continue to receive those supports.
- There is an exemption in place that allows students who require specialized supports and whose needs cannot be met through at home learning, to continue to receive their education in school, regardless of their grade.
- Parents should work with their school authorities to develop appropriate arrangements.

Can any student requiring one-on-one supports with their teacher (e.g. completing a CTS lab, help understanding concepts), make an appointment to meet with their teacher at school?

- Yes. Schools are required to follow all health protocols, including distancing, masking and hand hygiene. Students are encouraged to discuss their learning needs with their teachers.

Can a student with high-risk challenges obtain counselling services at school?

- Yes, by appointment only as long as public health orders and health professional sector guidance is followed. Appointments should be limited to one-on-one services.

Can outreach, off-campus/work experience programs continue?

- Yes. Students can continue their off campus work experience if the Health measures at the workplace allow. This will be dependent upon the individual circumstances.

Will schools on Hutterite colonies and Mennonite schools also be required to shift to at-home learning even if there are no cases?

- Hutterite colony and Mennonite schools will be allowed to continue in person learning.
- If there is a COVID-19 case in school, the school operations will be evaluated by the school authority and Education.

Support staff

Are school boards going to pay for bus drivers/EA's or others on contract that aren't providing services for the two weeks?

- No funding adjustments will be made to school authorities. As this is a temporary measure, we expect school authorities to continue to keep all staff employed.

Learning at-home/online expectations

Will Alberta Education waive required instructional hours?

- We respect the school board's decisions on their calendars.
- However, the requirements for instructional hours remains the same.

Expectations for learning at-home/online for students

- School authorities will work with their families to ensure that learning will continue, and that the needs of their students are met.
- Hours of instruction will be determined by the school authority.

Students	Learning Focus	Weekly Instructions Hours	Resources
ECS	Will continue in school. Learning expectations are as per usual practice. Student assessment by teachers continues.	Can continue to access services in-school.	As per usual practice.
K-6	Will shift to at-home/online. Learning expectations: Language and mathematics learning outcomes that strengthen the development of literacy and numeracy Incorporate health curriculum outcomes (with a focus on mental health). Student assessment by teachers continues.	At discretion of school authority.	Online, digital and/or paper-based as needed.
Grade 7-12	Will shift to at-home/online. Learning expectations are equivalent to current in school. Student assessment by teachers continues.	Equivalent to current in-school hours.	Online, digital and/or paper-based as needed.
Students with Disabilities	Can continue to access services in school.	Can continue to access services in-school.	As per unique needs.

Assessment

Are teachers expected to assess students from May 7-24?

- During at-home learning, teachers will continue to provide instruction and assess their students.

What is impact on student year-end school-based assessments?

- School authorities have the flexibility to make decisions regarding year-end school-based assessments.

Will in-person Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) continue as needed?

- Participation in Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) is optional for 2020-21 school year, with the decision to participate residing at the school authority level.
- The written response portion of Grade 6 and 9 PATs are currently scheduled for May 10 and 12.
- For school authorities that chose to participate in 2020-21 PATs, the written portion of these tests will be deferred until students have safely returned to in-class learning. Part B of the Grade 6 and 9 PATs are scheduled to be administered between June 14 and 25.

Will in-person Diploma Exams continue as needed?

- All diploma exams for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year will be optional, and the decision to write diploma exams resides with students and their families.
- Students will receive an exemption if they choose not to write an exam, however if an exam is written it will continue to be worth 30 per cent of their final mark.
- There are no diploma exams scheduled from May 7-24.
- June 2021 diploma exams are scheduled to be administered between June 10 and 28.

Will school principals be able to assign unallocated credits like last year?

- The 2020-2021 School Re-Entry Plan, under Scenario 3, indicates that the ability for the Principal to award up to 15 unallocated credits to students in Grade 12 will be activated.
- Implementing Unallocated Credits for fourth quarter and second semester of the 2020/21 school year will continue to support students with their high school credential requirements as was done in 2019/20.
- Unallocated credits will again be broadened to grade 10 and 11 students to prevent harm to students currently in high school who may lose credit earning opportunities and be unable to graduate in the future.
- Unallocated credits should be used judiciously, the maximum credits per courses remains at 15 credits. With this second school year of Unallocated Credits a student may earn credits in both school years, the maximum number of Unallocated Credits any one student can use to graduate will be limited to 20 credits.

Will in-person exams such as AP, IB and DELF continue in-school?

- Schools offering these programs may make arrangements for students to write the exams in school.
- Enhanced health protocols must be in place in order to decrease the risk of transmission, including:
 - staggered arrival
 - distancing at a minimum of 2 meters while writing exams and at all times while moving in and about the exam space
 - masking
 - hand hygiene
 - ensuring students exit the space immediately on completion and don't loiter in the school or surrounding areas
 - cleaning and disinfecting (as recommended in the school guidance).