



ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

1077 St. George Blvd., Suite 2000 • Moncton, New Brunswick E1E 4C9
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July 21, 2020

Dear Families in Anglophone East School District,

As you are aware, New Brunswick Public Health and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) have deemed it safe for schools to open in September. Schools are currently in the process of developing a COVID-19 Operational Plan which will include and consider a full range of safety measures to ensure a safe return to school for students and staff. The goal of all this planning is to mitigate the risks related to the transmission of COVID-19 in the school setting.

Below are a few preliminary points for consideration, further details on school plans for September will be provided directly from the school before the new school year begins:

Public Access To Schools: Access to schools from the public will be limited in the fall. Each school will communicate their process for parent access to schools during the first few days/weeks later this summer. This will include parents of new Kindergarten students.

First Days of School: Kindergarten entry is staggered for all Kindergarten students; parents will receive a message from your child's school regarding their first few days of school. Schools are also considering a staggered entry for other grade levels for September. This will allow schools to ensure that students are comfortable with the "new normal" for daily movement throughout the school during the first few days. Once all students return, Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will attend school everyday and High School students will attend school every second day. (please click [here](#) to review the Minister of Education's plan for September) High Schools will communicate student schedules with you and information regarding the plan for students on the days they are not in class will be provided by teachers.

Bussing: We are currently working on the bussing options for September. School busses are not designed for social distancing so we are looking at what can be done. We are working on reducing the number of students on our busses where possible while trying not to create undue hardship for families and schools. Lowering the number of students on buses will create more bus runs and change the pickup time in the morning and drop off time after school. It may also require more students to walk to school. Currently we pick up K to 8 students at 1.5 KM from the school (the Education Act requires 2.4 KM so we have offered a better service than required in the past) We are exploring options like one student per seat vs two to see what it does to our bus runs. There may also be differences for younger and older students riding the bus. We want to balance safety with the impact that more bus runs create for families and school scheduling. In the coming weeks EECD will be asking families who are capable to consider providing transportation for their children to reduce the number of students on the bus. We will have more updates on what bussing will look like later this summer as running the different scenarios is a complicated process and takes several weeks to complete.

Drop off/Pick Up: Due to an anticipated increase in the amount of families choosing to provide their own transportation to and from school, schools will include the drop off/pick up process in their Operational Plan. The specific plans will be shared with families before the new school year begins.



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Playgrounds: Playgrounds will be open for students. Each school will have a plan for student access to ensure the classroom “bubbles” do not mix on the equipment during recess and lunch hours.

Cafeterias: Students will not gather in the cafeteria to eat; however, the cafeterias will be open for Breakfast Programs and to purchase lunches. Each school will have access plans as part of their Operational Plan.

Screening/Cleaning: Parents will be asked to monitor their children for any symptoms of illness/COVID-19. If your child is displaying symptoms of any illness please do not send them to school. In the case of a child becoming ill at school, each school will have an area designated for students to wait for their parents to pick them up separate from other students.

There will be additional cleaning measures implemented in all schools both during the school day and after school hours to ensure that any risk of infection is mitigated to the best of our ability. Hand sanitizers and cleaning equipment (wipes, etc.) will be available in all schools.

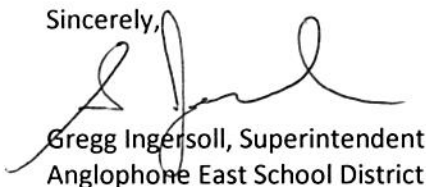
Masks: Masks are not currently required for students or staff during the school day. There may be instances however where physical distancing is not possible in some smaller school spaces and masks may be required. Your school will communicate this with you before the school year begins. If a student chooses to wear a mask during the school day, they are permitted to.

School Day: Classes will be running as normal in schools. Students will attend specialty classes (Art, Music, Phys. Ed.) Schools will communicate protocols for all classes with you before the beginning of the new school year. We appreciate that students have not been in a traditional school setting since March so teachers will be assessing student and personalize the learning experience to meet them where they are both academically and social emotionally.

Potential Outbreak: In the case of an outbreak in the school or community we will continue to follow the direction and advice of Public Health and EECD. If schools should close again, your child will continue the school year remotely led by their teacher. Given everything that has been learned since the pandemic started in New Brunswick and schools being set up to enable better contact tracing the likelihood of all schools having to close again is much less than before.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding as we navigate the return to school for our students and staff. Safety for everyone remains our primary priority.

Sincerely,



Gregg Ingersoll, Superintendent
Anglophone East School District