



Frequently Asked Questions for Parents Regarding COVID-19 Related School Closures

Updated June 2, 2020

ASD-S is working in consultation with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) regarding the current school closures and how it will affect the academic year. These messages will be updated through School Messenger, Twitter, Facebook and the ASD-S Website as we receive information on this continuously evolving situation.

ASD-S shares the concerns of our school communities and staff pertaining to health and safety. We will continue to take all of the recommended precautions from the Department of Health with respect to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

The health and safety of our students and staff remains our primary priority.

1) How long will schools be closed?

Schools are closed under the authority of an all-party committee of government with the support of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health due to the ongoing COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Schools will be closed throughout the end of the 2019-2020 school year and ongoing discussions are taking place provincially regarding Fall 2020. Home Learning opportunities from the schools will end June 12, 2020.

2) Will this closure result in an extended school year into the summer?

The Department has confirmed that the school year will not be extended.

3) Are daycares/early learning and childcare facilities open?

Regulated and unregulated day cares/early learning and childcare facilities were allowed to open when we entered the 'orange' phase of recovery. There will be a screening protocol for all early learning facilities which will include a questionnaire and a mandatory temperature check for anyone entering a facility. Child-care centres are operating at full capacity but will have to separate children into self-contained groups of 15.

A Q &A for parents regarding early learning and child care centres during the COVID 19 recovery phase can be found at <https://bit.ly/2XBYo3j>

4) Will the closure impact my Child and Youth Team appointments?

Your child's health and safety, including their mental health, is our priority. Students will continue to be supported. Parents can contact their Child and Youth Team office directly. If you do not know their number, please call one of the numbers below:

- Charlotte County: 506-466-7380
- Saint John: 506-658-3737
- Sussex to Kennebecasis Valley: 506-432-2217

5) Can my child connect with their School Guidance Counsellor or Guidance Teacher?

Teachers and guidance staff will be in schools from June 1, 2020 until the end of the school year- June 23. Students wishing to connect with their guidance teacher/counsellor during this time may do so by calling them at the school or emailing them directly.

6) Are there resources for me to access information on how to talk to my children about COVID-19?

Resources have been posted on the Anglophone South School district [website](#).

7) What are the expectations for school work during the closure?

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has collaborated with the School Districts to develop a Continuity of Learning Plan. The plan includes recommendations for continued home learning for students by grade level.

Weekly check-ins from your child's school will maintain social connection to the school and provide support regarding the home learning material.

We recognize that home life looks very different from one family to the next and understand that following these recommendations consistently may be a challenge for some at this time. There are many opportunities to continue learning outside of the classroom, and we hope these recommendations will help your family feel empowered to engage in continued learning at home. The plan can be found here: <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/news/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=841>

Additional learning supports can be found at:

- GNB Family Resource page:
https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/learning_at_home.html
- ASD-S website: http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/Pages/At_Home_Resources.aspx
- Electronic Library New Brunswick:
<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/nbpl/electronic.html>

8) What about students who do not have computers or Internet at home?

Teachers have been or will be in touch to check in with students to determine what access is available at home. Each school is taking steps to determine how best to deliver at-home student learning. This might include some online learning tools, no tech approaches, or other ways to continue student learning.

9) Can my child attend Co-Op or access Distance Learning?

Co-Op placements have been cancelled during the closure. Students who are enrolled in Distance Learning will be encouraged to continue as their personal circumstances permit.

10) Will report card dates be impacted by the closure?

Report cards will be issued for all K-8 students with the focus being on work completed from late November until March 13, 2020 when schools closed. For students able to participate in on line learning there may be some anecdotal comments added by the teacher.

At grades 11-12, students will be marked as “enrolled” or “credit” for the courses they have had in semester two. They will not be awarded a numerical mark. Grade 9-10 report cards will mark students as “enrolled”.

11) Will Provincial Assessments be impacted by this closure?

The remaining 2019-20 provincial assessments will not take place, except for the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interviews. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is developing a process to offer this assessment to interested students in an online or telephone format on a voluntary basis.

12) I’m a Newcomer or International Student – who can I contact for information about my stay?

Please contact Lynn MacDonald, Newcomer & International Student Coordinator at Lynn.MacDonald@nbed.nb.ca

13) Will this closure impact my child’s potential to graduate?

This closure will not affect students who are on a successful graduation path. All Grade 12 students who had at least 12 credits as of January will graduate in June 2020 and receive a high school diploma.

Transcripts will indicate the student was “enrolled” in current semester courses, and they will all count towards the required number of courses for graduation completion.

Grade 12 students who plan to graduate but have not passed the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) will not be required to complete this assessment and the transcript will indicate that the ELPA was “not required”.

14) Will this closure impact post-secondary applications and scholarships?

We do not believe there will be an impact; however, it is best to check with your post-secondary institution or scholarship provider. The NB government will work with post-secondary institutions so this interruption in formal schooling does not prevent students from being eligible for admission to post-secondary studies in the upcoming school year.

15) Will this closure affect graduation ceremonies and prom events?

High schools are planning for the celebration of our graduates, working within the guidelines of Public Health. Graduation week has traditionally been several events including the prom, award ceremonies, Baccalaureate Service, the graduation ceremony and Safe Grad. The focus this year will be the graduation ceremony event.

Across ASD-S our schools will be inviting each graduate and their immediate family to drive to the school at a specified time and pick up their diploma, yearbook, awards etc. at a location outside. They will have an opportunity for a picture with the Principal (observing the 2m social distancing). Many high schools are working on a video which will be made available to the family, with recorded speeches, pictures of the graduates and a listing of awards and certificates received. Details of this event will come from the school Principal as they are finalized.

16) Are school related trips and activities impacted by this closure? (Sports, Drama, Home & School meetings, etc.)

All school trips have been cancelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. All activities are cancelled during the closure.

17) Will I be refunded fees I paid for trips and activities?

School administrators are working to refund fees. Refunds for school trips is the priority and you will hear from your school regarding issuing these refunds.

18) Do I still have access to the school building during this closure?

Each school will communicate to families a plan for retrieval of items from lockers and desks. This will include health and safety protocols and scheduling to ensure the process maintains a safe environment for all who enter the building. Plans will differ from school to school and will be scheduled no earlier than May 04, 2020. Outside of these designated times, schools are not accessible to the public.

19) Are school facilities available for rent during the closure?

No. Schools are closed to students and the public.

20) Can my child use the school playground?

All ASD-S school playgrounds are closed until further notice. You can allow your children to play outdoors at this time if you follow these precautions:

- You can go for a walk on trails or in parks if it's not crowded and you're able to maintain a distance of at least 2 meters from other families.
- Playgrounds should not be used if crowded. Playground equipment could pose a risk, especially because some children will find it hard to avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth, even if instructed not to.
- Children's hands should be washed before you head out and right after you return home. Hand sanitizer should be used if you're driving to a location and can't wash their hands immediately before or after the activity. This should be done regardless of whether your child was wearing gloves or mittens.
- Avoid using public washrooms and if that's not possible, wipe down surfaces with sanitizer wipes before and after using.

21) Can my child participate in the School Support to Learners with Complex Needs program?

Eligible students were identified by each school's Education Support Services Team and were contacted directly by the school.