

EIPS Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 | FOR STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES

LAST UPDATED: March 23, 2020



FAQS: COVID-19

INFORMATION FOR STUDENT, STAFF AND FAMILIES

On March 17, the Government of Alberta [declared public health emergency](#)—just two days after announcing all classes from kindergarten to Grade 12 are cancelled until further notice. The measures are to help minimize contact between people and contain the spread of COVID-19.

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is working with Alberta Education and the provincial health authority to put plans in place to ensure every K-12 student receives a final mark for the 2019-20 school year. We're also committed to supporting families and providing everyone with accurate information. The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) received from families to date. EIPS will continue to update the document as more information is known.

General

Q: [What happening?](#)

A: As of March 15, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health cancelled all kindergarten to Grade 12 classes throughout Alberta. As such, all EIPS classes are cancelled until further notice, and all students and families are expected to stay at home. It's important to know, this is an evolving situation, and the information you received is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit eips.ca.

Q: [Why are classes cancelled?](#)

A: The Government of Alberta made the decision to cancel classes for all students to minimize contact between people and to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

Q: [How long are classes cancelled?](#)

A: At this time, we don't know how long in-school classes are cancelled. For now, all in-school classes within EIPS are cancelled until further notice. The province and the Chief Medical Officer of Health are monitoring the situation closely and will make further decisions as necessary.

Q: [When will we know more?](#)

A: EIPS is currently working with Alberta Education and the provincial health authority to make decisions accordingly. As soon as more information is known, EIPS will communicate with families and staff.

Q: [Does this situation change spring break?](#)

A: No. Spring break will continue as scheduled from March 30 to April 3. All schools remain closed and teachers are not working.

Q: [Can I get a refund for my fees?](#)

A: EIPS will review fees charged to families and any possible refunds once it's determined how long classes are cancelled. Once a decision is made, the Division will communicate that information to EIPS families.

Q: What am I supposed to do about childcare?

A: We understand the challenges of finding childcare. The government's encouraging employers to be flexible in meeting family needs. It's also working to minimize the impact. Many employers are also facing these disruptions with a reduction in business for some. Hopefully, this creates flexibility to support families.

EIPS Facilities

Q: Can I get my child's stuff from school?

A: Schools have contacted all EIPS families and have arranged times to pick up personal items. It's critical students or family members arrive on the date and time indicated by the administration. Students, families and members of the public can't access the school outside of these times.

Q: Are the before-and after-school programs and childcare programs within EIPS cancelled?

A: Yes. The government also announced the cancellation of all licensed childcare facilities, out-of-school care programs and preschool programs. As such, these, too are all cancelled until further notice.

Q: Is EIPS Central Services open?

A: Yes. All EIPS employees—trustees, administration, and staff—continue to work to ensure all students in kindergarten to Grade 12 progress to their next grade.

Q: Will Board meetings continue as scheduled?

A: Yes. Board meetings are continuing as scheduled. However, these meetings will occur remotely through videoconferencing. EIPS is currently working out the details and will share these once available.

Q: Will COSC meetings continue as scheduled?

A: Yes. COSC meetings are continuing as scheduled. However, these meetings will occur remotely through videoconferencing. EIPS is currently working out the details and will share these once available.

Q: Will School Council meetings continue as scheduled?

A: No, not at this time. All school council meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Learning

Q: How will my child advance to the next grade?

A: EIPS is working with Alberta Education to put plans in place to deliver quality programming through an alternate platform. All School authorities across the province will continue regular day-to-day operations. In addition, every K-12 student will receive a final mark and students will progress to their next grade level next year. However, all provincial assessments, including provincial achievement tests and diploma examinations, are cancelled.

Q: Are classes continuing online or through other mechanisms?

A: Yes. Students in diploma courses are already receiving alternative instruction through Google Classroom and telephone check-ins, which started on March 19. Meanwhile, following spring break, on April 6, students in kindergarten to Grade 11 will start receiving alternative instruction through Google Classroom and telephone check-ins.

Q: My child doesn't have access to a computer, Chromebook or iPad. How can they access instructional plans?

A: Contact your child's school. Staff will provide an alternative that meets your child's needs.

Q: My child has no access to the internet. How can they access instructional plans?

A: Contact your child's school. Staff will provide an alternative that meets your child's needs.

Q: Are Grade 12 students at risk of not graduating?

A: No. Every student who is eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year, will graduate. Even though diploma examinations are cancelled, students moving to post-secondary studies won't be penalized. The province is working with universities and colleges to ensure the cancellation does not impact a student's eligibility to go into post-secondary studies.

Q: Are Grade 12 diploma examinations cancelled?

A: Yes. All Grade 12 diploma examinations are cancelled through to the end of June 2020. Students currently registered to write diploma examinations during April and June sessions will receive exemptions, without the need to apply for one.

Q: Are high school graduation ceremonies cancelled?

A: At this time, it's still too early to know. Any graduation plans will follow the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Q: What's the plan for high school classes that aren't math, English, French, biology, chemistry or physics?

A: Teachers will use their professional knowledge, skills and experience to determine what is best for students during this unique situation. For any classes already started, schools will complete them with the student to the best of their ability, provide a final mark and award credits. For classes a student is unable to complete, that are required to achieve a high school diploma, such as a work experience or a career and technology studies course, principals can award up to 15 unassigned credits to ensure the student graduates.

Q: Will students continue to participate in RAP, Off Campus and dual-credit programs?

A: No, not at this time. All RAP, Off Campus and dual-credit programs are cancelled until further notice. EIPS anticipates direction from Alberta Education regarding these programs soon. However, for classes a student is unable to complete, that are required to achieve a high school diploma—such as a work experience or a career and technology studies course—principals can award unassigned credits to ensure the student graduates.

Q: How will teachers grade or assess at-home learning content?

A: Teachers are responsible for assessing a student's progress and reporting on their progress, including assigning a final grade. All students who were on track to progress to the next grade will do so for the next school year. EIPS will continue to consult and keep families informed as more information becomes available.

Q: Will students still get final grades?

A: Every student will receive a final grade and students who were on track to progress to the next grade will do so for the next school year. Provincial assessments, such as provincial achievement tests and Grade 12 diploma examinations are cancelled through to the end of June 2020.

Q: Are Grade 6 and Grade 9 provincial achievement tests cancelled?

A: Yes, all Grade 6 and Grade 9 provincial achievement tests are cancelled for the 2019-20 school year. For Grade 9 students who wrote PATs in January, schools can share the results with families, but they won't be recorded provincially.

Q: Will the school year be extended into the summer months?

A: No, not at this time. Nor has EIPS received any direction in this regard. If a decision of this nature is made, it will be up to the Minister of Education.

Q: Will Continuing Education classes continue?

A: All community and recreation classes are cancelled. However, credit classes continue online. Students are receiving alternative instruction through Google Classroom.

Q: Will Summer School classes continue?

A: Summer School registration is open and will continue as scheduled until further notice.

Health and Wellness

Q: I don't feel well, what should I do?

A: If you have any flu-like symptoms do not come to an EIPS facility. Even if you're feeling a little under the weather, you need to stay at home. Instead, take the province's [Self-Assessment Tool](#) or call [Health Link 811](#). Do not go to an emergency room or clinic. For more information visit [COVID-19 info for Albertans](#).

Q: How should I talk to my child about COVID-19?

A: A new virus such as COVID-19 can create anxiety and is difficult for students and children to understand. It's especially difficult if someone they know is sick or they hear troubling messages on the radio, internet or television. So, it's important to talk to them in a calm and reassuring manner to reduce the anxiety a child may have. It's a good idea to first ask your child about what they have heard so far about COVID-19, how they feel and what questions they have. If they have questions, answer them as honestly as possible. It's also helpful to discuss easy preventive steps such as proper handwashing, social distancing and staying away from people who are sick. Staying rooted in routines and predictability is

also sensible. Even though classes are cancelled, structured days with regular mealtimes and bedtimes help to keep children healthy and happy.

Q: [What resources are available through EIPS for people struggling?](#)

A: It's important all of us try to reduce anxiety around COVID-19. Steps such as cancelling classes, proper handwashing, social distancing and staying away from people who are sick will help contain the spread of COVID-19. Currently, EIPS is leveraging its school counsellors to work with students, families and staff around mental health. Counsellors and school-based support teams are reaching out to students and families to share mental health resources and information. For resources visit [EIPS Mental Health Resources for Families](#). Similarly, EIPS employees can also access a variety of supports including access to information, resources and professional services. For more information visit [Homewood Health](#), or contact Central Services at 780-464-3477.