

Update on Plans for Learning from Home

Our province's Back to School Plan is built on three scenarios. The first is full, in-school learning. The second is a Blended/Partial In-School Learning Model whereby older students learn from home while younger students stay in classrooms. The third is Learning from Home, or At-Home Learning, with all students learning remotely.

If there is a case of COVID-19 in a school, Public Health will advise the education system whether or not to close a school, or whether or not to send a classroom home. Public Health may also advise to change COVID-19 safety protocols, or direct that one school, or multiple schools should move to Blended/Partial In-School Learning or Learning from Home.

Under this scenario, Learning from Home, students in all grades learn from home while teachers teach from a school work site. In all grades, students who need technology will receive technology to assist in their learning. All students will receive real-time online instruction (synchronous learning) from teachers in addition to work to be completed on their own (asynchronous learning) or in groups. The duration of real-time online instruction daily depends on the grade level of the student.

Primary–12 teachers will deliver classes online and through the use of other approved tools and methods so that all students are able to participate in a combination of real-time instruction and self-directed learning. Students will have opportunities to engage virtually with their peers, teacher, and a variety of specialists and supports. Below is grade specific information about real-time instruction and additional information.

Pre-primary

Children in pre-primary will remain at home. Children in pre-primary and their families will receive a package of play-based learning materials, including a take-home bag that contains a journal, pencils, crayons, glue stick, scissors, and the Let's Play Together booklets. Individual pre-primary ECEs may include other items and materials specific to their class.

Primary to Grade 3

For students in primary to grade 3, there will be 2 hours of school work daily, with one hour of that time online. Students will be provided with a detailed schedule indicating when they will be online, and when they will be working independently. Some students may have additional time with learning support teachers and other support personnel depending on supports required and Individual Program Plans (IPPs).

Grades 4 to 6

For students in grades 4 to 6, there will be about 3 hours of school work daily, with up to 1.5 hours of that time online either individually, in small groups or as a class. Students will be provided with a detailed schedule. Some students may have additional time with learning support teachers and other support personnel depending on supports required and Individual Program Plans.

Grades 7 to 9

For students in grades 7 to 9, there will be about 4 hours of school work daily, with up to 2 hours of that time online either individually, in small groups or as a class. Students will be provided with

a detailed schedule. Some students may have additional time with learning support teachers and other support personnel depending on supports required and Individual Program Plans.

Grades 10 to 12

For students in grades 10 to 12, students will follow their current schedules, with up to 50% of their school day online. Students will be provided with a detailed schedule. Some students may have additional time with learning support teachers and other support personnel depending on supports required and Individual Program Plans.

Teachers

Teachers are expected to work with students throughout the entire day.

Teachers will continue to use PowerSchool Gradebook and TIENET as they have in the fully-in-school scenario to communicate assessment results.

All teachers will continue to use ongoing assessment for learning practices by clarifying for learners their learning outcomes and criteria for success, providing ongoing feedback during the learning and time for learners to reflect and act on that feedback.

All teachers will continue to evaluate learners' progress and achievement, summarizing how well students are learning in relation to their learning outcomes and criteria for success. Teachers will determine when enough evidence is gathered to make that evaluation (i.e., weekly, bi-weekly, and end of a unit of study, task, or project).

Additional highlights related to Learning from Home:

- Student learning will continue to be assessed in all courses and for students with Individual Program Plans (IPPs).
- Report cards will be provided to students, if required; distribution dates may be adjusted if needed.
- Courses with performance elements, such as music, dance, or drama, will be conducted online. Virtual performances will be held online or recorded.
- All students are expected to participate fully in learning at home.
- Access to additional supports will be provided to students to support and enhance student well-being and achievement.
- EECD, RCEs, and CSAP will work with Teaching Assistant/Educational Assistant and Child and Youth Care Practitioner unions to mobilize a plan to support students who require highly specialized, individualized programming and services. This will be operationalized at the school level by the Student Planning Team, following Public Health guidelines.
- Access to Student Support Workers will continue.

- The Teaching Support Team and Student Planning Team will ensure that plans to support students are flexible. They will consider how programming and services can be delivered to support well-being and achievement while students learn from home.
- The Homework Hub for Mathematics will have expanded hours and increased support to provide services to grades 4 to 12. For additional information on the Homework Hub and other information for families related to the curriculum and technology use see <https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/parentfamily-information>

For more information about Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan, go to <https://novascotia.ca/backtoschool>