

August 26, 2020

Dear Abbotsford School District families,

Re: Restart Plan for 2020-2021

Over the last few weeks, our teams have been working diligently to build a robust and flexible restart plan for our school district under the guidelines established by the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Officer.

Toti:Itcha - Our Restart Strategy

Referred to by our team as "Toti:Itcha", to honour the language of the Stó:lō people, the Abbotsford School District has developed its restart strategy for 2020-2021 as mandated by the Ministry of Education. After reading our plan, families will know what to expect in classrooms and across our schools.

Our restart strategy is developed around key features related to health, safety, teaching, and learning. To ensure continuity across the district, each school will follow this strategy and build on it with their own site-specific details, to give families a clear picture of what things will look like under Stage 2 of B.C.'s K-12 Restart Plan.

[PDF: Read Toti:Itcha - Our Restart Strategy](#)

Health & Safety

Our staff, students, and families' health and safety is our top priority in our back to school strategy. The strategies being implemented across our 46 school sites will work together to support the safest environment possible. Some of these strategies include:

- cohorts (learning groups)
- Daily Health Assessments for students and staff
- increased handwashing and sanitizing
- enhanced cleaning standards
- multiple physical distancing strategies

More details on Health & Safety: [Restart Strategy, Pg. 6](#)

Family Options

As a district, we are committed to providing meaningful and engaging learning opportunities for each student. We recognize that in-class instruction might not be appropriate for all families and staff, depending on their personal circumstances and well-being. That is why we are offering several options for our families.

In-class Instruction

Students will be face-to-face maximizing in-class instruction. Having students in the classroom is the best way to minimize learning gaps and provide the academic, social and emotional supports essential for learning.

Homeschooling

Homeschooling is an alternative method of teaching offered outside the B.C. educational system. Typically, a family member is responsible for delivering the entire educational program to children at home.

Distributed Learning

Distributed learning is available for students in grades 8-12 who can complete individual courses online under a District teacher's direction.

Transition Program (Under Consideration)

The district is exploring a temporary transition option for families who are not yet ready to have their children return to in-person instruction. This option will allow students to learn remotely and to receive some learning support from the district.

More details on Family Options: [Restart Strategy, Pg. 17](#)

As you can imagine, implementing these options is a monumental undertaking at every level of our organization. Parents will be required to make a decision for their preferred learning method for the 2020-2021 school year by August 31.

[SURVEY: Submit Your Choice of Instruction](#)

Next Steps

The weeks ahead will undoubtedly be challenging, as we all learn new ways of working and learning safely across our community. School-specific plans will be available on your child's website by September 4 to provide you with further clarification.

I know that this year will be different for all of us. However, I have every confidence in our staff to pull together with families to deliver on our commitment to a safe and engaging education for our children.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kevin Godden
Superintendent of Schools

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PDF: [Toti:Itcha – Restart Plan for 2020-2021](#)

SURVEY: [Choice of Instruction - BC K-12 Restart - Stage 2 Return to School](#)