

Fact Sheet – Elementary Schools

The Richmond School District, in consultation with our partner groups, has designed learning structures at the elementary level to ensure that the requirements of the Ministry of Education Restart Plan are fully addressed and our students are welcomed back to a safe and welcoming school environment. Parents will receive further information from their school regarding the details of their child's return to the classroom in the week before school starts. For most students, a return to school will look as follows:

Curriculum and Instruction

- The instructional model in elementary schools will not change significantly.
- Students will learn the BC Curriculum as they normally would.
- Teachers will be encouraged to provide outdoor instruction as much as possible.

Learning Groups

- Students will be organized into classes as they have always been.
- Two classes will form one learning group/cohort with a maximum of 60 students and staff.
- Schools may change cohorts at a predetermined period of time (i.e., term or quarter) to address different learning needs.
- Students can socialize with peers in different learning groups if they are outdoors, but are expected to minimize physical contact - as noted in the provincial guidelines.

Schedule and Building Operations

- Elementary students will return to school for half days on Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11 for orientation.
- Full-time in-person instruction will be provided for all elementary students beginning Monday, September 14.
- Kindergarten gradual entry begins on Friday, September 11.
- Flex time within each section of the day will allow for staggered hallway transitions, as necessary.
- Schools will schedule staggered breaks and outdoor time for students to decrease the number of students outside at any given time.
- All lunch/recess breaks will be outdoors.
- Eating times will be adult supervised.
- Visitors, including parents and guardians, will only be permitted in the school by appointment.
- All doors will remain locked during the day to ensure access to the building is contained to only staff and students.
- Designated entrance and exit doors for each class will be determined and teachers will supervise the entrance and exit of students.
- Classes will determine a meeting spot outdoors for end of day parent/guardian pick-up.

Vulnerable Students and Students with Diverse Learning Needs

- Full-time in person instruction will be available for students at all grade levels with disabilities/diverse abilities and students requiring additional support.
- Students who are identified as being immunocompromised or as having complex medical needs will have the option of full at-home support.