

## **COVID-19**

# British Columbia Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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# BRITISH COLUMBIA | Summary of the Government's Response to COVID-19

School System	Status, Date of Closure, & Expected Date of Re-Opening	Current Graduating Classes	Access to Online Learning	Provincially Mandated Assessments & Report Cards	Financial Aid for Schools and Parents	Tuition, Scholarships & Entry Fees
<b>Child Care Centres – Ministry of Children and Family Development</b>						
Licensed child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents are able to return their children to their child care provider, if they choose to do so. If the child care provider does not have available space they can request a <a href="#">temporary emergency child care space</a>. (Current as of July 30).</li> <li>Child care centres continue to make individual choices as to when they wish to resume operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All child care centres who opt in will continue to receive Temporary Emergency Funding (TEF) until the end of the summer, August 31, 2020. (Current as of July 30)</li> <li>Child care centres receiving TED must continue to prioritize children of <a href="#">essential service workers</a>.</li> <li>Beginning September 1, 2020, child care centres will go back to their pre-pandemic enrolment. (Current as of July 30).</li> <li>Eligible families will continue to receive the Affordable Child Care Benefit if their provider is open and charging them a fee (July 30).</li> <li><a href="#">Changes to the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB)</a> mean that families may continue receiving the benefit even if the child was, or will be absent for over two weeks due to COVID-19, or the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centres that opt-in to receive TEF that are closed must not charge fees to families and must reserve the space for the child once the pandemic passes.</li> <li>Centres that opt-in to receive TEF that are open must prioritize available spaces for children of essential service workers where able to do so, not charge fees to families that choose to withdraw their child temporarily due to COVID-19 related issues or concerns, and offer families that have temporarily withdrawn their child the space back when the child returns once the pandemic passes (Current as of July 30).</li> </ul>
Registered licence-not-required child care						
Licence-not-required child care						

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					parent no longer has a valid reason for child care due to COVID-19. (Current as of July 30).	
<b>Kindergarten to High School – Ministry of Education</b>						
Independent (Private)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In September 2020, all schools will reopen in Stage 2 of the <a href="#">Five Stages Framework for K-12 Education</a> (Current as of July 29).</li> <li>Stage 2 is a full return to in-class instruction for all students for the maximum time possible within learning group limits.</li> <li>Parents will be contacted by their school or school district/authority to confirm the educational program options available for September 2020. Visit your school and district websites for regular information updates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents who do not want their child to attend in-person classes at a public or independent school have the option to register their child for online and distributed learning (based on program availability) or home-schooling (Current as of July 29).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The return to full in-class instruction in September will include provincial curriculum for all students at all grade levels, regular report cards, and regular assessments at the classroom and provincial level (Current as of July 29).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School districts with existing meal programs will continue to work with community partners to provide meal support to families in need, in alignment with current public health guidelines. (Current as of July 29).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).</li> </ul>
Public						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning group size is 60 for Elementary, 60 for Middle, and 120 for Secondary.</li> <li>Parents who do not want to their child to attend in-person classes at a public or independent school have the option to register their child for online and distributed learning (based on program availability) or home-schooling (<i>Current as of July 29</i>).</li> <li>School districts and independent school authorities will assess and determine if it is safe for students to remain on work placements and apprenticeships.</li> </ul>					
<b>Post-Secondary Institutions – Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills &amp; Training</b>						
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the fall 2020 academic term, education and skills training will be delivered using a variety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents, and who are enrolled in a post-secondary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-</li> </ul>

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	<p>of formats, while protecting the health and safety of students, faculty and staff. (<i>Current as of July 31</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Larger classes will be offered primarily through remote delivery</li> <li>○ Where health and safety permits, in-person instruction will be delivered on-campus to support essential experiential learning, graduate education and work-integrated learning</li> <li>○ Some courses will be delivered using a blend of on-campus and online instruction with theory delivered remotely, and some hands-on learning components delivered on-campus</li> <li>● Students are encouraged to visit their post-secondary institution's website for the latest</li> </ul>				<p>education program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; or who ended their studies no earlier than December 2019 are <a href="#">eligible</a> for the <a href="#">Canada Emergency Student Benefit</a>. The benefit will provide \$1,250 a month for eligible students or \$2,000 a month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities from May to August 2020. (<i>Current as of July 30</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students studying at B.C. public, private and out-of-province post-secondary institutions may be eligible for federal and provincial emergency <a href="#">benefits</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Effective March 30, 2020, all British Columbia student loan borrowers will temporarily have their repayments suspended until September 30, 2020. During this time, no payment will be required, and interest that currently applies to the federal portion of student loans will not accrue (<i>current as of June 18</i>).</li> <li>● Post-secondary students and recent graduates are eligible for the <a href="#">Canada Student Services Grant (CSSG)</a>, which provides volunteers with a one-time payment of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 based on the number of hours they serve.</li> <li>● Canadian workers aged 15 to 30 are eligible for <a href="#">Natural Resources Canada's Science and Technology Internship Program</a>.</li> </ul>

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	course delivery information.					

## A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to post-secondary students and recent graduates:

- Post-secondary students and recent graduates who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or for Employment Insurance, but who are unable to find full-time employment or are unable to work due to COVID-19, may apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). The CESB would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students from May through August 2020, and \$2,000 for students with dependents and those with permanent disabilities. The CESB will be delivered by CRA. More information is found [here](#) (current as of May 13).
- The Government of Canada announced a new Canada Student Service Grant which will provide up to \$5,000 to support student's post-secondary education costs in the fall. More details to follow (current as of April 22).
- The Government of Canada will revise the Canada Student Loan Program's eligibility requirements in 2020-21 to allow more students to qualify for supports and be eligible for greater amounts, including doubling the non-repayable Canada Student Grants for full and part time students, as well as for students with disabilities and students with dependents, in the coming academic year. The changes are expected to expand the reach of the program and the benefit to more than 760,000 students at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.9 billion over two years starting in 2020-21 (current as of April 22).
- The Government of Canada will revise various student and youth employment programs, such as the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. More information is found [here](#) (current as of April 22).

## A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to international students:

- As announced on March 20, 2020, international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able travel to Canada by air or land. They will be exempt from air travel and border restrictions. This exemption is to accommodate students who are in the middle of their course of study or who have just been approved to study in Canada but were outside Canada when the travel restrictions took effect (current as of March 26).
- Courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to COVID 19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program eligibility (current as of March 26).
- Students who have a study permit or who have been approved for a study permit for a program starting in May or June may begin their classes while outside Canada and may complete up to 50% of their program while outside Canada if they cannot travel to Canada sooner (current as of April 16).
- Individuals who are already legally in Canada will be able to remain in the country (current as of March 26).
- Temporary residents who are currently in Canada are able to apply to extend their status online if they need to extend their status. A temporary resident who has applied to extend their status is allowed to remain in Canada until a decision is made on their new application, even if their initial status expires while they are waiting for that decision. This is called implied status (current as of March 26).
- At least one post-secondary institution has suspended the intake of new incoming International students from overseas for the Spring Semester beginning in May.
- The Government of Canada is temporarily allowing international students holding study permits, who are eligible to work off campus and already present in Canada, to work more than 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods. This change is in effect until August 31, 2020 (current as of April 22).

## Information about the Government of British Columbia's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/safe-caring-and-orderly-schools>
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information>

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