

COVID-19

New Brunswick Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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NEW BRUNSWICK | Summary of the Government's Response to COVID-19

School System	Status, Date of Closure, & Expected Date of Re-Opening	Position on the Current Graduating Class	Access to Online Learning	Provincially Mandated Assessments & Report Cards	Financial Aid for Schools and Parents	Tuition, Scholarships & Entry Fees
Child Care – Department of Education and Early Childhood Development						
Licensed early learning childhood programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 19, 2020, the Government of New Brunswick announced that “child care operators” will cease admitting children and parents, except the children of essential workers as defined by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. On April 2, 2020, the Government of New Brunswick renewed its March 19 order. Facilities remaining open to support essential service workers will follow the advice set out by the chief medical officer, including reduced group sizes and social distancing. In addition, these facilities will continue to follow strict health and safety directives. For more information, contact the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Parent Portal or call 1-833-221-9339 (<i>current as of March 17</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update, but loan and interest deferrals are available, on a case-by-case basis, to any business that has a loan with an existing Government of New Brunswick department. The deferral can be requested by contacting the department that issued the loan (<i>current as of April 28</i>). Opportunities New Brunswick is making available working capital loans to help employers respond to COVID-19. Working capital in excess of \$100,000, up to a maximum of \$1 million is available. Business can apply directly to Opportunities New Brunswick (<i>current as of April 28</i>). The Government of New Brunswick has expanded the Community Investment Fund to include non-profits. This funding is available for small to medium-sized non-profits in the form of a grant between a minimum of \$500 and up to a maximum of \$10,000 (<i>current as of April 28</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020.
Home-based child care						

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of New Brunswick announced that regulated child care centres are permitted to reopen as of May 19 and non-regulated child-care providers are permitted to re-open as of May 8. Amendments have been proposed to the <i>Early Childhood Services Act</i> to increase the safety of children receiving services at licensed early learning and child-care facilities. The amendments focus on clarifying licensing requirements, including regarding the suitability of employees and the requirement for criminal record checks for all staff who have contact with children; protecting children by giving the minister explicit authority to immediately revoke a facility's licence in order to protect the health and safety of children; and ensuring operational safeguards for relicensing so families are not left without services due to process delays. (current as of June 9). 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application forms and the updated Community Investment Fund Guidelines are available here (current as of April 28). 	

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Kindergarten to High School – Department of Education and Early Childhood Development						
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 19, 2020, the Government of New Brunswick announced that public schools and private schools must be closed to students. On April 2, 2020, the Government of New Brunswick renewed its March 19 order. Individuals with question relating to schools may call 1-844-288-3888 (<i>current as of March 13</i>). All school playgrounds and playgrounds associated with public housing facilities, are closed to support physical distancing requirements (<i>current as of March 27</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). The provincial government, in partnership with UNB, St. Thomas University, Mount Allison University and the Université de Moncton, is encouraging Grade 12 students to get an early start on their post-secondary education by enrolling in distance learning offered through the spring and summer intersession courses, see below. (<i>current as of April 27</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). No school-specific update, but loan and interest deferrals are available, on a case-by-case basis, to any business that has a loan with an existing Government of New Brunswick department. The deferral can be requested by contacting the department that issued the loan (<i>current as of April 28</i>). Opportunities New Brunswick is making available working capital loans to help employers respond to COVID-19. Working capital in excess of \$100,000, up to a maximum of \$1 million is available. Business can apply directly to Opportunities New Brunswick (<i>current as of April 28</i>). The Government of New Brunswick has expanded the Community Investment Fund to include non-profits. This funding is available for small to medium-sized non-profits in the form of a grant between a minimum of \$500 and up to a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).
Public (including Anglophone and Francophone programs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category yellow of the Public Health Recovery Phases indicates that schools will open in September 2020 with “strict controls” (<i>current as of April 30</i>). The Government of New Brunswick has announced that teachers will begin to return to schools as early as June 1. Schools will not reopen to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Grade 12 students who, as of January 2020, were on track to graduate in June 2020 will graduate on time and receive a New Brunswick high school diploma (<i>current as of April 2</i>). The Government of New Brunswick will work with post-secondary institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglophone and francophone sectors have each developed a delivery plan and supporting materials that reflect their unique approaches and correspond with their curricular outcomes (<i>current as of April 3</i>). Educational resources for students in the Anglophone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More information on assessments, report cards and delivery plan outlines are available in the continuity of learning plans for the Anglophone and francophone sectors. The remaining 2019-20 provincial assessments will not take place, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	

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	<p>students and the school calendar will not be extended (<i>current as of May 19</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan for return to schools in September of 2020 has been released. It outlines the operational requirements schools and school districts must meet while developing their COVID-19 operational plans (<i>current as of July 31</i>). 	<p>to ensure this crisis does not prevent students from being eligible for admission to post-secondary studies in the upcoming school year (<i>current as of April 2</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provincial government, in partnership with UNB, St. Thomas University, Mount Allison University and the Université de Moncton, is encouraging Grade 12 students to get an early start on their post-secondary education by enrolling in distance learning offered through the spring and summer intersession courses, see below (<i>current as of April 27</i>). Schools will be responsible for developing their individual graduation ceremony plans and submitting them to their respective districts for approval. Ceremonies are anticipated to take place between June 15 and 19. The final day for home learning options was June 12. 	<p>sector will also be shared on the newly-established New Brunswick Family Resources website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francophone school districts are in the process of developing their own website and more information will be available in the coming days. Home learning options for each grade break down can be found here. On May 6, The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development announced an investment of \$860,000 towards the acquisition of 1,000 iPads with data plans, 500 laptops and 300 MiFi Hubs to support home learning by providing students in need with access to devices and internet services. 	<p>except for the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interviews (<i>current as of April 3</i>).</p>	<p>maximum of \$10,000 (<i>current as of April 28</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application forms and the updated Community Investment Fund Guidelines are available here (<i>current as of April 28</i>). As of July 22, High school students will be expected to bring their own electronic devices for learning beginning in September as part of a shift toward a more personalized, collaborative and tech-based learning model. A subsidy program will be available for students from low- and middle-income families who do not currently own a device. Families will be provided with up to \$600 per high school student to purchase a laptop through the program, depending on their eligibility (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). 	

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Post-Secondary Institutions – Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour						
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of FAQ's has been published in order to address concerns by students in studies impacted by COVID-19 (<i>current as of June 18</i>). On March 19, 2020, the Government of New Brunswick announced that colleges and universities must be closed to students. On April 2, 2020, the Government of New Brunswick renewed its March 19 order. Category yellow of the Public Health Recovery Phases indicates that schools will open in September 2020 with "strict controls" (<i>current as of April 30</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update, but loan and interest deferrals are available, on a case-by-case basis, to any business that has a loan with an existing Government of New Brunswick department. The deferral can be requested by contacting the department that issued the loan (<i>current as of April 28</i>). Opportunities New Brunswick is making available working capital loans to help employers respond to COVID-19. Working capital in excess of \$100,000, up to a maximum of \$1 million is available. Business can apply directly to Opportunities New Brunswick (<i>current as of June 18</i>). The Government of New Brunswick has expanded the Community Investment Fund to include non-profits. This funding is available for small to medium-sized non-profits in the form of a grant between a minimum of \$500 and up to a maximum of \$10,000 (<i>current as of April 28</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application forms and the updated Community Investment Fund Guidelines are available here (current as of April 28). 	
University of New Brunswick (UNB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 19, 2020, the Government of New Brunswick announced that colleges and universities must be closed to students. On April 2, 2020, the Government of New Brunswick renewed its March 19 order. The provincial government, in partnership with UNB, St. Thomas University, Mount Allison University and the Université de Moncton, is encouraging Grade 12 students to get an early start on their post-secondary education by enrolling in distance learning offered through the spring and summer intersession courses. (current as of April 27). 	Determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNB will be offering introductory courses using remote learning over the summer to incoming students. Students may choose from over 40 courses that can be applied to their university degree (current as of April 27). Please see the school's website for more information. 	Determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Emergency Bridging Fund for Vulnerable Post-Secondary Students will support students who are directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be distributed by post-secondary institutions based upon eligibility criteria and will provide a one-time amount of up to \$750 per student. Students must contact their institution directly to be considered and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Funding support will be based upon the need for food, shelter, unanticipated medical costs not covered through health plans, and unforeseen additional academic costs. To qualify, vulnerable students must not qualify for the one-time \$900 provincial emergency fund as of March 30. Students must be in a position in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As an immediate measure, and on a case-by-case basis, the Government of New Brunswick will defer loan and interest repayments for up to six months on existing provincial loans (current as of March 27). With regards to student financial assistance, one application enables students to apply for programs offered by both the provincial and federal governments (Current as of June 30). the 2020-21 provincial budget lowered interest rates on the provincial portion of student loans to the
St. Thomas University			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admitted incoming students at St. Thomas University are eligible to enrol in intersession courses. The web-based courses in biology and political science begin next week, while a course in human rights begins in May. The university has communicated directly with all incoming students 			

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Mount Allison University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The University of New Brunswick has clarified its plans to bring students back to on-campus housing this September. UNB, which will run most courses online, opened residence applications to all students — however not all residences will be open. 		<p>about this opportunity (<i>current as of April 27</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see the school's website for more information. 		<p>which they cannot access money through student loans, Employment Insurance, personal savings, or other COVID-19 related financial assistance programs (<i>current as of April 3</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the institutional level, some schools have created COVID-19 specific relief funds for the benefit of their students (<i>current as of March 27</i>). The Government of New Brunswick has launched JobMatchNB, a virtual job matching platform to connect New Brunswickers with available employment positions and provides a list of resources for job seekers and students (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). 	<p>prime rate from the prime rate plus 2.5 per cent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and their families are encouraged to visit studentaid.gnb.ca to apply.

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Université de Moncton			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the Université de Moncton's intersession courses is available on their Continuing Education webpage (current as of April 27). 			

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 (current as of March 26).
- 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 New Brunswick's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19.html> (New website)
- <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education.html>
- <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news.html>

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