

COVID-19

Saskatchewan Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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SASKATCHEWAN | 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 – Ministry of Education: Early Years Branch						
Licensed child care centres and family child care homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All facilities that provide services that have as their primary purpose the care and supervision of children are limited to a maximum of 8 children per room, unless the facility is (i) configured so that a maximum of 8 children are kept in room, and (ii) compliant with the <i>Saskatchewan Child Care Guidelines for Care (current as of March 20 but effective as of March 23)</i>. All child care facilities that are co-located with or within a long-term care or personal care home that meet the above restriction shall be segregated with a private entrance and separate space so that there are no shared common areas with the long term care home or personal care home, as the case may be, and no interaction between childcare children and residents of the home. (current as of March 20 but effective as of March 23). 	<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 child care-specific updates as of April 30, 2020, but the Government of Saskatchewan has (i) announced deferrals and exemptions for “businesses” from certain government expenses and auditing compliance policies, and (ii) launched the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment Program, which provides financial assistance to small businesses in Saskatchewan that have been ordered to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations. See here for eligibility (current as of April 28). On June 4, 2020, the provincial government announced that anyone currently working or returning to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020.
Unlicensed child care homes and family child care homes		<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 update as of May 21, 2020.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care facilities will open in phase three of the Government of Saskatchewan's five-phase plan. The date of phase three is yet to be determined (<i>current as of April 28</i>). As of June 8, 2020, all child care services as defined in <i>The Child Care Act, 2014</i>, are limited to a maximum of 15 children per building space. Additionally, all child care centres that are co-located with a long-term care or personal care home that meet the above restriction shall be segregated with a private entrance so that there are no shared common areas within the home and no interaction between child care children and residents of the facility. Guidelines for operators of child care facilities are included in Phase III of Re-Open Saskatchewan. Latest guidance provided as of June 8. 				<p>work under Phase One, Phase Two or Phase Three of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan will have access to licensed child care services located within Saskatchewan schools.</p>	

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Kindergarten to High School – Ministry of Education						
Independent Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes in all primary and secondary educational institutions, both public and private, are suspended (<i>current as of March 26</i>). On May 7, 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that all in-class learning is suspended until at least September. According to the news release, "more information about how education will look in September will be provided as soon as possible." On June 9, the Ministry of Education has announced that classes in Saskatchewan Prekindergarten to Grade 12 schools will resume in-classroom learning for the upcoming school year. 	<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 updates as of May 21, but the Government of Saskatchewan has (i) announced deferrals and exemptions for "businesses" from certain government expenses and auditing compliance policies, and (ii) launched the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment Program, which provides financial assistance to small businesses in Saskatchewan that have been ordered to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations. See here for eligibility (<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>).
School Divisions (including Public, Separate, and Francophone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Saskatchewan released the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Saskatchewan initially announced that all students would proceed to the next level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School divisions are encouraged to employ all of the multiple modes of delivery available to them in order to support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student marks in high school classes (grades 10-12) as of March 13 stand, however students will be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020.

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	<p>Educational Institution Guidelines for the return to classroom learning in the fall. The school year is set to start as early as September 1, based on local school division calendars (<i>current as of June 18</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest guidance provided as of June 18. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More recently, the government's website notes that "students in kindergarten - Grade 9 will be advanced into the next grade in the following year" (<i>current as of March 31</i>). • The Response Planning Team has issued guidelines, found here (<i>current as of March 31</i>). • Students in Kindergarten-Grade 9 will be advanced into the next grade in the following year. Supplementary educational opportunities will be provided for these students by local school divisions (<i>current as of June 18</i>). 	<p>supplemental student learning (<i>current as of March 31</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on supplementary learning options available to students and families will be communicated by school divisions (<i>current as of March 31</i>). • The Government of Saskatchewan has provided guidance for educators that should be followed to assist those student who do not have access to technology. 	<p>afforded the opportunity to improve their mark - if the students choose - through distance and alternative learning methods provided by their school division (<i>current as of March 31</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students enrolled in a subject area as of March 13, and who have been assessed by their teacher, will receive a minimum grade of 50 per cent. • Students wishing to improve upon that mark, will have opportunities to do so through distance and alternative learning methods implemented by the school division (<i>current as of March 31</i>). • The Ministry of Education has created Remote Learning Guidelines for Parent and Guardians to 		

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				assist students taking part in supplemental learning being offered by school divisions. <i>(current as of June 18).</i>		

Post-Secondary Institutions – Ministry of Advanced Education

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 26, 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan issued an order that suspends classes of all public and private post-secondary institutions <i>(current as of March 31).</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 updates as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of Saskatchewan has (i) announced deferrals and exemptions for “businesses” from certain government expenses and auditing compliance policies, and (ii) launched the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment Program, which provides financial assistance to small businesses in Saskatchewan that have been ordered to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations. See here for eligibility <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> Some schools are granting refunds to students for remaining room and board costs on a prorated basis <i>(current as of March 27).</i>
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Public					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A six-month student loan repayment moratorium has been put in place, mirroring similar federal support (<i>current as of March 27</i>). The Government of Saskatchewan will make up to \$1.5 million in emergency financial aid available to help at-risk post-secondary students. Emergency bursaries for students will be available from April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Eligibility requirements and application details will be available to students through their post-secondary educational institution within the next week to ten days, after details are finalized (<i>current as of April 9</i>).

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 introduced 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 Saskatchewan's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/guidance-for-schools>
- <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/guidance-for-child-care>
- <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/may/07/in-class-learning-suspended>

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