



NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT #92

Return to School Plan

September 2020

Our schools support students in developing their potential and acquiring the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need for lifelong success. In-person learning, as a part of a student's education, provides the opportunity for peer engagement, which supports social and emotional development as well as overall wellness. It also provides many students access to programs and services that are integral to their overall health and well-being.

As we transition back to school, our focus is on the continuity of student learning and creating a plan that is flexible, responsive, and fluid, a plan that can be adjusted as necessary to keep our students, their families, our staff and our communities safe.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Students will be returning to school this September. We have planned our return so that students will have time to transition and to receive training in new safety measures and school expectations. School is going to look different, and we want students to clearly understand and be able to demonstrate proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and physical distancing.

We have a comprehensive district COVID-19 Healthy & Safety Response Plan that follows the same strict provincial health and safety measures co-developed with the provincial health officer, the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Ministry of Education. Each of our school plans will align their school-specific plans with the district plan. The Response Plan can be found on the district website and will also be posted at each district site.

COHORTS/LEARNING GROUPS

A further safety measure is the use of cohorts, or student learning groups. Students and staff will work almost exclusively with their cohorts, limiting the number of contacts students have in a school day. Because our schools are small, our cohorts will be smaller than across the province. School plans will address details such as:

- Information about your child's cohort
- When your child can come to the school to meet their teacher, see their learning space, and learn about safety measures
- Daily schedules including drop-off and pick-up times
- Daily health assessment requirements
- Protocols for common areas
- Orientation information

Student learning plans will be a combination of in-class and self-directed learning. For example, at our elementary schools, students will initially be assigned to a morning or afternoon cohort. Students in the morning cohort will attend school until lunchtime. When not in class, students will be focused on self-directed, project and place-based learning that supports the direct instruction they received in class. Our secondary students will follow a similar model of in-class and self-directed learning, though it may be organized differently.

The focus with our grade 8 – 12 students will be on completing two academic core courses at a time. When not in-class , students will be engaged in self-directed learning where they will have the opportunity for additional support if needed. If students do not require additional support, their time will be spent completing assignments and projects. Students in grades 10 -12 will be working towards graduation and we will be developing learning plans based on helping students meet those requirements. We are in the process of looking at how we might provide additional support and enhanced learning opportunities for students when they are engaged in the self-directed portion of their learning plans. A priority will be helping our grade 12 students meet requirements for graduation.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

Continuity of learning is a key element of our plan. The way we have structured our learning allows us to easily shift emphasis between in-class and self-directed learning. We are working to develop learning plans that are responsive and sustainable, plans that will allow us to increase or decrease in-class instruction as required. We rely on information provided by our provincial and local health authorities, feedback from our families and communities, and consultation with the Nisga'a Lisims Government and Village governments when determining that balance.

COMMUNICATION

Your child's school will be your primary source of information about your child's learning plan and progress. School specific operational procedures will be shared and will provide you with more detailed information about your child's learning plan.

Please reach out at anytime with questions or concerns. We want to hear from you. Open communication between home and school is key to student success.

We look forward to having students back at school. As we start a new year, we are also starting a new "edition" of education and learning, one that will evolve over the course of the year. Keeping our schools safe is the responsibility of staff, students, families and community. As we work together, I know we will be able to meet the learning needs of our students, and perhaps, as we begin to re-imagine what education can look like, we may even find new and enhanced opportunities for our students.

Guiding documents:

Nisga'a School District Response Plan

<https://www.nisgaa.bc.ca/news/read/6529976053>

BCCDC

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

WorkSafeBC

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/education>

Ministry of Education

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>