



2020-2021 Re-Entry Plan

BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

June 18, 2020

Alberta Education released the **2020-21 School Re-Entry Plan** on June 10, 2020. The preamble of this plan states:

“Implementation of this plan is subject to change and direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. It is based on the best available information and conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan will evolve and be adjusted when information becomes available as the status of the COVID-19 pandemic changes.”

At Black Gold, planning has been well underway for weeks as to what the re-entry to schools in September 2020 will look like for our students, staff and families. We were pleased to receive the Re-Entry plan from Alberta Education which confirmed many of our previous assumptions.

The school re-entry plan for ECS - Grade 12 schools considers three scenarios that could exist when the 2020-2021 school year begins in September. NOTE: Black Gold School Division is planning for each of the three scenarios. While we truly hope to arrive back at Scenario 1, we recognize that we may be required to transition from one scenario to another with short notice.

- **Scenario 1:** In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures)
- **Scenario 2:** In-school classes partially resume (with additional health measures)
- **Scenario 3:** At-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)

Guiding Principles for Black Gold School Division’s Re-entry Plan

- The safety and well-being of students and staff is our priority.
- Children and student learning will continue to be guided by Alberta Education mandates and the provincial Programs of Study in all potential methods of delivery.
- Staff will have access to the professional learning, collaboration, and support they need to grow instructional practice in all potential methods of delivery.
- Expectations for staff, parents/guardians and students will focus on consistency for learning, communication and program delivery.
- Parents/guardians play a critical role as they support actions in the home (such as keeping students home when sick and accessing testing if symptoms develop) that ultimately keep other students and staff safe.

In both Scenario 1 and Scenario 2, the Division will implement the protocols and measures established by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 including:

- daily screening for all staff and students using the tool provided by Alberta Education (see page 5).
- enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfecting recommendations including: all areas of the school cleaned daily, washrooms and high-touch surfaces cleaned several times a day and a regularly scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present.
- strict stay-at-home policy for any students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (even if symptoms resemble a mild cold).
- if a student develops symptoms at school, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up the student immediately.
- physical distancing recommendations including the possible reorganization of rooms to allow for more physical space and discouraging large gatherings such as assemblies where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- cohorting of students by class where possible (mostly elementary schools).
- hand hygiene expectations when entering and exiting the school and classrooms, before and after eating.



- continual reminders of the importance of respiratory etiquette (e.g. cover coughs and sneezes, avoid touching the face and disposal of used tissues promptly, followed by hand hygiene).
- a no sharing policy, all students should have their own supplies.
- where sharing of school equipment is required, the equipment will be cleaned between uses.
- guiding foot traffic flow through entrances and hallways by using markers on the floor.
- staff and students *will not be mandated* to wear masks. Masks may be considered in circumstances where there is prolonged close contact (greater than 15 minutes) and distance of two metres cannot be maintained.
- cancelling all hot lunch programs until further notice.
- Cancelling all student excursions that require bus transportation and overnight trips.
- Minimizing the number of people who come into the school.

Scenario 1 Guidelines

Children and students will be supported for at home learning on request of the child's parents.

Planning for Instruction and Delivery

- Calendars may be adjusted (the number and/or length of instructional days) to address content in subject areas.
- Black Gold will follow public health measures for children and student learning including physical distancing where possible.
- Consideration will be given to adjusting the time spent in non-core subjects to allow for additional instruction time on core subjects (English, French Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social) if it is deemed necessary.

Provincial Assessment

- Grade 12 Diploma exams will be mandatory.
- Grades 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will be administered using previously established protocols:
 - English Language Arts, Mathematics, and French Language Arts only.
- Grade 3 Students Learning Assessments (SLAs):
 - may be administered as part of screening tools to assist teachers in identifying gaps in student learning.

BGSD Screening Tools

- Early in the year, screening tools will be completed by grades 1 - 10 students to assist teachers in identifying gaps in student learning and provide important information as they plan their instruction.

Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

- The Division will enable participation and inclusion of students with disabilities to the best of our ability. In circumstances in which students who require specialized supports and services (i.e. behavioural, intellectual, learning, communication or physical characteristics, or a combination of any of them) are not able to follow guidelines and require support and adaptation to public health measures, plans will be developed to ensure their inclusion.

Transportation

- Fixed seating plans will be implemented to assist contact tracing, students from the same family should sit together, and when possible, maintain physical distancing between other students.
- The bus will be sanitized after every route.
- Parents/guardians or members of the household, may be asked to provide transportation for their children if possible to reduce the number of students on the bus.



Scenario 2 Guidelines include all guidelines outlined for Scenario 1 plus the following:

Planning for Instruction and Delivery

- Students *will* be divided into two or more groups and attend in-school classes on an alternate schedule - groups will not be in classes at school at the same time. Every effort will be made to schedule all children in the same family attend classes on the same day(s).
- Physical distancing requirements of two metres *must* be maintained.

Children and Students Who Require Specialized Supports and Services

- Supports and services will be provided in school or at home as appropriate.

Scenario 3 Guidelines

Unlike the emergency remote learning that was implemented on very short notice, from March - June 2020, there will be greater consistency of expectations and accountability for student learning if Scenario 3 is implemented.

- In the event that a transition to at-home learning is necessary, teachers will provide instruction through distance and online learning. Based on Alberta Education recommendations, the Division will develop guidelines and expectations to support staff as they:
 - focus on curriculum expectations;
 - engage students in ongoing two-way communication;
 - include opportunities for assessment for, of and as learning, as well as opportunities for students to reflect on their learning, practice and get feedback;
 - identify how home/school communication will be maintained with families;
 - account for students requiring additional support; and
 - adhere to the number of weekly hours established by Alberta Education.
- Provincial Assessment may be cancelled (Grade 3 SLAs, Grades 6 and 9 PATs and Grade 12 Diploma exams) based on the timing and duration of the cancellation of in-school classes.
- BGSD screening tools (MIPI and HLAT/FHLAT) will be administered at home to assist teachers in identifying gaps in student learning.
- Teachers and other staff will provide specialized supports and services to children and students, including those with disabilities in consultation with families in order to support learning outcomes at home, while avoiding direct contact to protect children, student and staff health.

For all Three Scenarios:

Student learning

- Schools continue to be responsible for assessing the progress of children and students.
- Students continue to be responsible to actively engage in learning and diligently pursue their education.
- Staff, parents/guardians, children and students must continue to follow public health measures in place.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Staff, parents/guardians, students and community members must continue to follow public health measures in place.
- Extracurricular sports, field trips requiring busing, and all overnight field trips are postponed. This will be reviewed by November 30 based on direction from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services.



Mental Health/Psychosocial Supports for Students and Staff

- Staff have access to professional learning on supporting mental health of students.
- Staff have access to mental health supports for themselves and their families.
- Information on accessing mental health resources for students and staff will be posted on the Black Gold Engaging Students website. Staff information will also be posted on the Black Gold Engaging Teachers website.
- Information for parents/guardians on accessing mental health supports for themselves and their families posted on the [Black Gold website](#).

Looking Ahead

School personnel will be preparing buildings by installing engineered precautions, extra sanitization stations, and developing administrative protocols to keep students and staff safe regardless of the scenario. Teachers and administrators will be looking at resources and practices that will meet student's curricular needs.

By August 1, 2020 the Government of Alberta, in collaboration with Alberta's Chief Medical Officer, will make a final decision regarding the scenario that we will implement in September. Scenarios may vary between regions of the province. We will finalize our communications at that time and if Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 are to be implemented, *we will ask all parents/guardians to declare whether each of their children will be returning to in-school classes or will be engaging in learning at home.*

Thank you for your ongoing support as we navigate this complex task.



COVID-19 INFORMATION

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL RE-ENTRY – SCENARIO 1

In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures)

Appendix C
Screening Questionnaire

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

Risk Assessment: Initial Screening Questions

Table with 4 main questions and multiple sub-questions. Columns include question text and 'CIRCLE ONE' with 'YES' and 'NO' options.

* "unprotected" means close contact without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please DO NOT enter the school at this time. You should stay home and use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

If you have answered "No" to all the above questions, you may attend school.

