

COVID-19

Alberta Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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ALBERTA | 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
Daycare & Preschool – Ministry of Education						
Licensed child care facilities (including daycare, out-of-school care and preschool programs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of Alberta's relaunch strategy, licensed daycare and out-of-school care programs can reopen as of May 14. Preschools can reopen as of May 28. The maximum number of children allowed in approved family day homes remains temporarily changed to 6, not including their own children. Latest news brief for the child sector was provided as of May 6, 2020. 	<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"> Alberta will provide phased relief to day care centres and out-of-school care centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 - \$6.7 million: Centres will immediately receive a one-time grant to cover up to 25% of overhead costs like rent and utilities Phase 2 - \$3.2 million: Upon reopening, centres will receive a grant for cleaning and sanitation supplies and to assist with staff recruitment and training Phase 3 - \$6.9 million: After three months of being open, centres will potentially receive a grant to offset deferred bills and to address unforeseen operational issues. This will be based on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of July 31, 2020.

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					<p>an assessment of other federal and provincial support programs (<i>current as of May 6</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved family day home agencies will also be able to access funding, up to \$1 million total, to support current operations and supplies and equipment to adhere to public health guidelines (<i>current as of May 6</i>). 	
Kindergarten to High School – Ministry of Education						
Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students across Alberta will return to class for the 2020/21 school year under Scenario 1: In-class learning with enhanced health and safety measures. Parents and students can use the following resources to prepare for the new school year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2020/21 Parent Guide contains steps parents and students should follow to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school students on track to receive 100 or more credits will remain eligible to graduate (<i>current as of May 6</i>). Principals will have the ability to award up to 15 unassigned credits to students in Grade 12 whose program has been negatively impacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta offers several education options to support students who find themselves in situations where they must learn from home. (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Grade 6 and 9 provincial achievement tests are cancelled through to the end of June (<i>current as of May 6</i>). Grade 12 diploma exams are cancelled through the end of June 2020. Students currently scheduled to write diploma exams in April and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific support update as of June 18, 2020, but the Government of Alberta has announced (i) corporate income tax deferrals until August 31, 2020, (ii) WCB premium payment deferrals for private sector employers, and (iii) measures for ATB small business customers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).
Francophone						
Private						
Separate						
Public						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools. ○ Guidance documents for playgrounds, outdoor fitness, and sport, physical activity and recreation provide detailed health measures to help keep students and staff safe at schools (<i>current as of July 31</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ by class cancellations (<i>current as of March 20</i>). • The Alberta government is working with post-secondary institutions to ensure that these circumstances do not prevent students from being eligible for admission to post-secondary studies for the upcoming school year (<i>current as of March 20</i>). • Guidance for graduation ceremonies can be found here (<i>current as of May 16</i>). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June will receive exemptions, without having to apply. Students who paid for their April or June diploma exam will be reimbursed (<i>current as of May 21</i>). • Each student will get final grades and a report card appropriate to his/her grade level (<i>current as of May 6</i>). • August diploma exams will proceed for students taking diploma courses this summer. Diploma exams will be offered in every subject in the November and April exam sessions. (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). • Provincial achievement tests for grades 6 and 9 can be held if in-school classes are available. School authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While funding for teachers and most other aspects of the K-12 system is being maintained, funding for transportation and some services not being utilized in an at-home learning environment, such as substitute teachers and educational assistants, is being temporarily reduced while in-person classes remain cancelled. Any savings from these adjustments will be re-allocated to support Alberta's COVID-19 response. School authorities will receive the funding they require to continue providing at-home learning opportunities to their students (<i>current as of March 28</i>). 	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> can choose to participate. (<i>Current as of July 31</i>) 		

Post-Secondary Institutions – Ministry of Advanced Education

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective May 14, 2020, in-person classes may resume, with restrictions. In the cities of Calgary and Brooks, in-person classes may not resume until June 1, 2020. (<i>Current as of May 27</i>). Post-secondary institutions are encouraged to continue to hold classes remotely and limit in-person attendance on campus as much as possible. (<i>Current as of May 27</i>). Information current as of June 22 can be found in the Guidance for Post-Secondary Institutions publication. 	<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 as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of Alberta has announced corporate income tax deferrals until August 31, 2020, WCB premium payment deferrals for private sector employers, and measures for ATB small business customers. As part of its COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan, the Government of Canada introduced flexibility in post-graduation work permit rules to help international students. (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). Effective March 30, 2020, the Government of Alberta deferred all student loan payments until September 30, 2020. Interest will not be accrued during this period. The Canada Student Loan program also defers payments and pauses interest accrual until September 30, 2020. more about support and service available through Alberta Student Aid.
Public						

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

- <https://www.alberta.ca/student-learning-during-covid-19.aspx>
- <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>
- <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx>
- <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=71285388C2A58-EBFA-E8E6-0CEDD4EDF6EB6965>

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