

COVID-19

Ontario Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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Ontario | 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
Child Care Centres – Ministry of Education						
Child care centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care and early years programs are re-opening with enhanced health and safety measures in place. (<i>Current as of July 30</i>). As of September 1, 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ licensed child care centres, including centres in First Nation communities, can operate at full capacity ○ before and after school programs for school aged children can operate with standard ratios and maximum group size requirements ○ EarlyON Child and Family Centres can reopen with in-person programming if participants preregister ○ First Nation Child and Family Centres on reserve can reopen with in-person programming if participants preregister 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Education is working with TVO and TFO to roll-out a robust education programming on their respective broadcast channels (<i>current as of March 20</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While schools and child care centres are closed, parents can apply for direct funding to offset the cost of buying materials to support their children's learning, while they practice self-isolation and physical distancing (<i>Current as of June 23</i>). • Eligible parents will receive a one-time per child payment of \$200 for children aged 0 to 12 and \$250 for children or youth aged 0 to 21 with special needs. (<i>Current as of June 23</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update as of July 31, 2020.

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Kindergarten to High School – Ministry Of Education						
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private schools in Stage 2 regions will remain closed at this time, according to rules for areas in Stage 2 under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020. Private schools in regions that have entered Stage 3 can reopen, subject to certain health and safety rules. These rules do not apply to First Nation or federally operated schools. A list of region breakdown by phases can be found here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to COVID-19, the literacy graduation requirement and 40 hours of community involvement have been waived for students graduating in the 2019-2020 school year. (Current as of July 31). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario's Action Plan provides a one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools (current as of July 31). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).
Public & Catholic (including English and French for each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary schools will be equipped to reopen with enhanced health and safety protocols, province wide. Elementary school children will attend school 5 days per week. Students will be in cohorts, which means they will be with the same group of children throughout their school day, with limited exposure to 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For both elementary and secondary students, in-person school attendance will be optional for the 2020-2021 school year to ensure parents can make decisions that work for their children and family. School boards will offer remote learning for all students who choose this 			

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	<p>multiple teachers or a wide variety of classmates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All secondary schools will open with enhanced health and safety protocols. All secondary students will see different timetables in this school year that are designed to keep them in a small cohort of students. Secondary schools in school boards designated by the province will open on an adapted model, with class cohorts of approximately 15 students, with schedules that would represent in-person attendance for at least 50% of instructional days. Secondary school students in an adapted model would be assigned curriculum-linked work on remote learning days and, where possible, would participate in synchronous learning with their teacher and classmates for a period of each school day. School boards may require students to pre-register for in person attendance by a certain date. If students miss the deadline, they may be wait- 		<p>option (<i>Current as of July 31</i>).</p>			

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	listed and offered remote learning until an appropriate class placement can be provided. <i>(Current as of July 31).</i>					

Post-Secondary Institutions – Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting in July 2020, limited in-person education and training may restart for students who were not able to graduate due to COVID-19 closures. In September, all students will have the opportunity to attend postsecondary education through virtual learning, in-class instruction, or hybrid formats. <i>(Current as of July 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> In September, all students will have the opportunity to attend postsecondary education through virtual learning, in-class instruction, or hybrid formats <i>(current as of June 10)</i> Ontario will work with other partners who may be interested in offering digital learning, such as Indigenous Institutes and private career colleges. Supports will be accessible on an as-needed basis and limited to those courses and programs where formal exams are required <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"> Students will not have to make payments and no interest will accrue on their Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan between March 30, 2020 and September 30, 2020. <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> Loan repayments for Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loans will be subject to a six-month interest-free moratorium until September 30, 2020 <i>(current as of June 17).</i>
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Public			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government of Ontario will begin working on a digital and academic modernization framework this summer. (<i>Current as of June 10</i>) To ensure students can successfully complete the academic year, Ontario has finalized an agreement with eCampusOntario to make digital learning supports available to postsecondary institutions in both French and English, to provide publicly-assisted colleges and universities with the technology they need to conduct year-end assessments (<i>current as of March 31</i>). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario is distributing \$25 million in additional funding to publicly-assisted colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes to help address each institution's most pressing needs in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak such as deep cleaning, purchasing medical supplies or offering mental health supports (<i>current as of March 31</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 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 Ontario's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://www.ontario.ca/orders-in-council/oc-5192020>
- <https://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2020/03/province-takes-steps-to-ensure-frontline-staff-can-continue-to-work.html>
- <https://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2020/3/ontarios-action-plan-responding-to-covid-19.html>
- <https://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2020/04/school-closures-extended-to-keep-students-staff-and-families-safe.html>

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