



Fact Sheet

Special Education

Updated August 10, 2021

The health, safety and well-being of students and staff is a top priority as schools are reopened

Return to School Model

We are hoping to see everyone return to in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. Remote learning will be offered, although in a different format than was offered last year. The format will be dependent upon enrollment. As some of our students with special needs have underlying health concerns we know that parents/guardians will be making decisions for the health and safety of their children.

All students have the opportunity to attend school 5 days per week.

DELIVERY MODEL (CONVENTIONAL)

The Ministry of Education has announced that using specific safety measures as well as limiting the amount of student contacts will allow all students to return to school in September. The following precautions will be mandatory:

- ✓ Normal school day routine with enhanced public health protocols (see PPE, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette fact sheets)
- ✓ All grade 1 to 12 students and staff will be required to wear masks indoors on school property. Clear masks will be provided where necessary for faces to be seen for lip reading to support students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- ✓ If you are uncertain of the attendance of your child please contact your local school Principal.

VIRTUAL PLATFORMS

For families who are choosing to keep their child(ren) at home, remote learning will be made available through the local school. Schools will ensure that students needing technology and/or hotspots have those tools ready for start-up. All SGDSB approved platforms and software are accessible to all students and school teams will ensure that families will be involved in this selection. School teams will continue to contact families on a regular basis.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS

Individual Education Plans will be carried out as per regular expectations and goals with considerations made regarding changes in the school environment and/or remote learning needs.



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- ✓ These will continue to be reviewed and updated as student needs change depending on their learning environment.
- ✓ Additional plans and transition time will be made to support a smoother transition to school.
- ✓ Staff will be supporting students in using assistive technology.
- ✓ We will be working with our service providers (George Geoffrey's, NOSP, DILICO, etc.) to develop local protocols for the access of non-school based providers, such as rehabilitation therapists and nursing staff, and supporting remote delivery of these services where in-school delivery is not possible (TinyEye in some locations).
- ✓ Parent Meetings, case conferences, IPRC meetings may occur virtually by computer or telephone depending on the comfort of each family. In-person meetings may also occur outside of the school day following screening and safety protocols.
- ✓ Service providers such as Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy etc., will continue to provide services in school while following safety protocols and personal protective equipment.

HOW WILL STAFF ENSURE THE SAFETY OF MY CHILD AND THEIRS?

SGDSB will be continuously consulting with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) on options for personal protective equipment (PPE), staff training, and potential remote learning should the Covid-19 circumstances change. The safety of all staff and students is our priority and individual plans will be created to ensure student needs and dignity are met.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- ✓ In situations where, for example direct contact is required with a student for positioning and assistance with eating or toileting, the following PPE will be provided: a medical/surgical grade mask and eye protection in the form of goggles or a face shield, surgical gown and gloves as appropriate.
- ✓ When staff are required to wear masks or other PPE, they will be explaining why they are to students so that they have the knowledge. Staff will ensure that the PPE is worn in a way that is supportive to student's well-being and ensures their feeling of safety and security.
- ✓ Where an Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP) is required all staff will be provided with N95 respirators that are test fitted.
- ✓ Our staff will be trained in the use of the equipment as well as disposal as required.
- ✓ Every effort will be made to ensure that student and staff safety are a priority.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ROOMS AND SPACES

- ✓ At times students are withdrawn to provide specialized supports and or sensory opportunities. Sanitization will occur in between student usages.
- ✓ Accessible washrooms will be maintained and sanitized regularly.



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- ✓ Safety screens are accessible in every school to support face to face contact where masks may not be worn.

This Fact Sheet has been designed to provide information for school communities considering the changes required by COVID-19. For any questions, concerns, or accommodations, please contact your child's school principal.

