

Families can sign in to a **parent account in SchoolZone from October 5 at 8 a.m. to October 19 at 4 p.m.** to choose between in-person or online learning for their child(ren) for Quarter 2. Families who do not have access to SchoolZone should contact their school by the 4 p.m. deadline on October 19 to indicate their choice.

Family choice

As we organize for 2020–2021, we know that all our students need access to high-quality instruction. We also recognize that in-person classes might not be appropriate for all families and staff, depending on their personal circumstances and well-being. That is why we are offering choice.

A quarterly system for 2020–2021

Families will be able to decide, at four key times throughout the school year, whether their child will attend school in person or choose to learn at home through online instruction. To offer this choice, we are organizing the school year into four instructional quarters (two-month periods of learning).

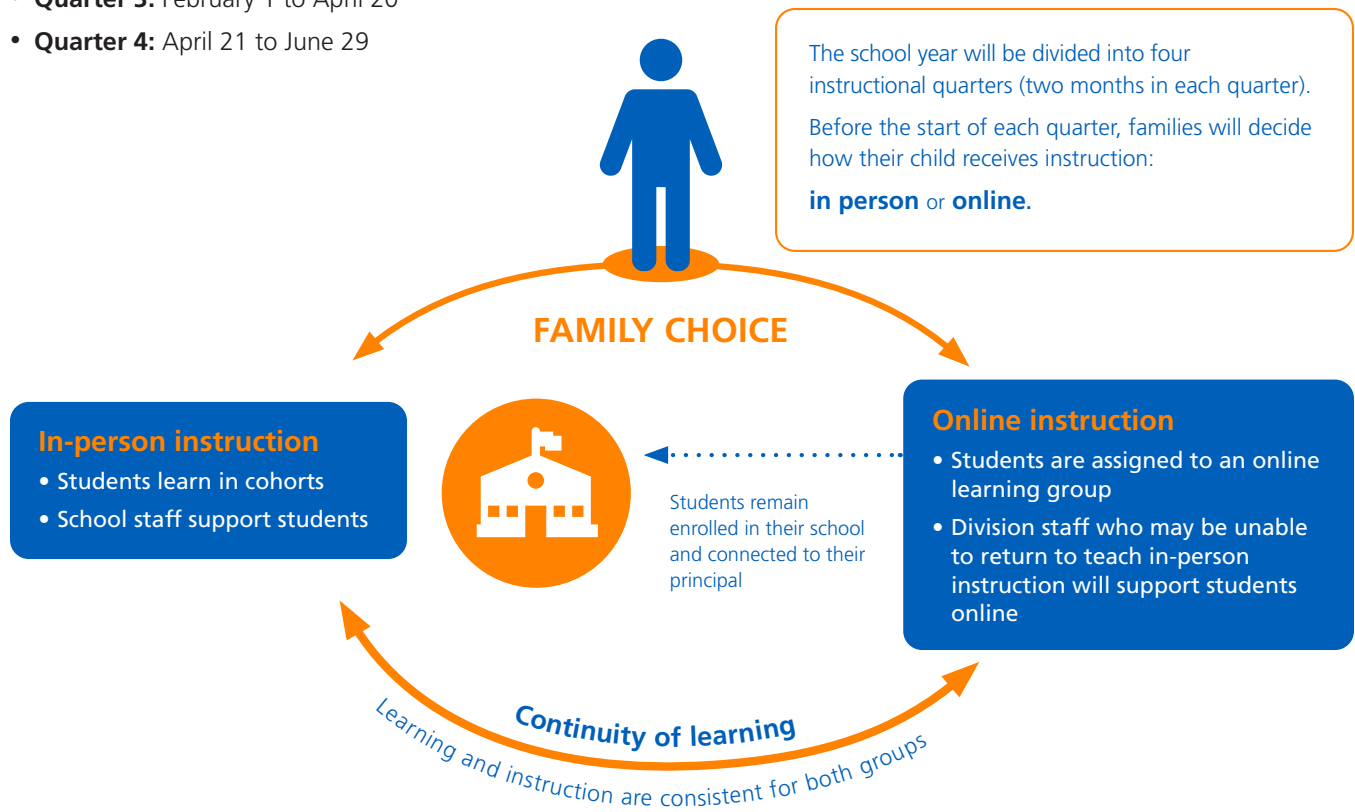
- **Quarter 1:** September 3 to November 10
- **Quarter 2:** November 16 to January 29
- **Quarter 3:** February 1 to April 20
- **Quarter 4:** April 21 to June 29

How it works

Before the start of each quarter, families will be asked to indicate their choice for the following quarter. Then, schools will organize resources and staff to support the choices that families make. Whether families choose in-person or online learning, they remain enrolled in the school where they registered or pre-enrolled for 2020–2021.

High-quality education for all students

To make sure we're ready to deliver excellent online instruction throughout 2020–2021, we have invested significant funding to develop comprehensive resources for students. This will help ensure that quality student learning is consistent for families, no matter which type of instruction they choose for their child.



In-person instruction under Scenario 1

Students who attend school will be assigned to a class where a classroom teacher will support their learning. If the student is registered in an alternative or language program, they will continue to receive instruction in that program. If a student needs to stay home due to illness, their classroom teacher will provide work to support their learning. The teacher will not provide online instruction.

School fees

Schools will charge fees to families each quarter, based on whether the family is choosing in-person learning or online instruction for that quarter.

Lunch fees and transportation fees will be included in each quarterly fee schedule. Families may continue to pay these fees on a monthly basis within the quarter.

Because schools will organize their operational spending to best support family choice in their community, schools are not able to refund fees once they have been received for that quarter.

Online instruction under Scenario 1

Students who learn online will be part of an online learning group with an assigned teacher. This learning format will include live online teacher instruction, directed activities and assignments that students will complete independently.

Online students will remain enrolled at the school where they registered for 2020–2021. However, their online teacher may not be a staff member at that school. As well, students in an online learning group will often be from more than one Division school.

Online instruction will cover all the required areas of the provincial curriculum. Teaching will focus on the core subject areas, with a modified focus on complementary courses.

The Division will explore meaningful ways to deliver alternative programming to online students, but we cannot guarantee that all alternative programming options will be available online. Families with children registered in an alternative program will continue to receive information from their school about the program. Online students will also be welcome to participate in any special events related to the alternative program. At this time, schools are limited to hosting virtual events.

What to expect after the family choice deadline

Shifting from in-person to online learning

Students will not be able to switch from in-person learning to online learning after the family choice deadline, at **4 p.m. on October 19**. If your child is learning in person and no longer wants to attend classes, please let your school know. If families choose to keep their child home midway through a quarter, they will receive work from their classroom teacher to complete at home—they will not be placed in an online class. The family will be responsible for guiding their child as they complete this work at home. Then, they may choose online learning for the following quarter.

Shifting from online to in-person learning

If a student wants to shift from online learning to in-person learning after the deadline, the family should contact their school principal to find out if there is room in a specific grade.

The family choice deadline plays an important role in ensuring schools have enough teaching staff assigned to both online and in-person classes.