

March 4, 2021

Dear families, parents and guardians,

As we look toward the 2021-2022 school year, I want to provide you with an update about Edmonton Public Schools' plans for next year and choices you have for your children.

This school year has brought unprecedented change and options for families because of the pandemic. For the 2021-2022 school year, our goal is to have a gradual return to in-person learning.

However, as we look towards August, we anticipate that health protocols will continue to be in place for our schools. We will continue to work with Alberta Health officials and Alberta Education to ensure appropriate health measures are in place when we return to school in September.

Based on the pandemic, we know that families may still wish for choice in how their child(ren) learn. However, rather than quarterly choice, we will be offering a choice of in-person or online learning for the first half of the school year. Another choice for families is to choose online learning for the entire school year through Argyll Centre.

Pre-enrolment

Pre-enrolment for the 2021-2022 school year starts on March 8, and you have until 4 p.m. on April 15 to select a program or school for your child(ren). Pre-enrolment is not first come, first serve. You have lots of time to research your options, consult with schools and decide what is the right fit for your family. Before you make your selection, please consider the following:

Online learning

For families who know their child thrives in an online learning environment and wish to choose online learning for the entire school year, may select [Argyll Centre](#) for their child in SchoolZone when pre-enrolment opens on March 8.

Argyll Centre offers online learning opportunities for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. Students who enrol in Argyll Centre for the 2021-2022 school year can expect consistent learning groups.

Families who pre-enrol in a full year of online learning at Argyll Centre will not be connected to their current school as was the case this year. If students choose to return to their previous Division school for the 2022-2023 school year, in some circumstances (lottery schools, entrance criteria schools, programs of choice), their space is not guaranteed.

Family choice

As I mentioned, our goal is to have students learning in-person and we hope this will happen for the second half of the school year (February-June 2022).

If you decide to pre-enrol your child in a designated or preferred school (with the exception of Argyll Centre), you will have a choice of online or in-person learning for the first half of the school year (September-January). You will make your choice between online or in-person learning between June 21-August 12 in SchoolZone. We have selected these dates due to the changing nature of the pandemic, so that families can make an informed decision.

While I know students, staff and families are looking forward to being back to school in-person, we need more information from Alberta Education and Alberta Health before making a decision for the second half of the school year. If we are still experiencing significant health measures in our community, parents will have a choice between in-person and online learning, with the exception of students attending Argyll Centre. We will share more leading up to the start of the second half of the school year.

More information

Please visit epsb.ca for more information about planning for next year.

Key dates

There are a few key dates for you to keep in mind:

- **March 8-April 15:** Pre-enrolment for the 2021-2022 school year
 - If you want your child(ren) to learn online for the whole year, pre-enrol at Argyll Centre
 - If you want choice for the first half of the school year pre-enrol your child at a designated or preferred school
- **June 21-August 12:** log into SchoolZone to choose in-person or online learning for the first half of the school year (September-January)

Thank you for your continued partnership as we navigate unprecedented times. If you have any questions, please reach out to your school.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools