



Dear Families:

We are writing today to provide you with a quick update of where we are at in terms of planning for the return to school in September.

Earlier this week Education Minister Rob Fleming announced there would be a slight delay returning students to school in September.

Students will return to school as early as **September 10 & 11** with staff returning earlier in the week. In terms of specific start dates, families can expect to hear from their individual schools at the end of August/ first week of September.

### **Information Timeline**

During our planning phase we are consulting with district partners, including the Sooke Parents' Education Advisory Council (SPEAC), to ensure we are considering all perspectives.

- **August 21** – school districts are required to submit their plans to government for review and approval.
- **August 26** – school districts must make plans public by this date.
- **September 8 & 9** – school staff return to their schools.
- September 10 & 11** – gradual return of students.

Many families have questions about what the return to school will look like. SD62 is working diligently to come up with a plan that ensures alignment to Provincial health and safety guidelines. Our direction is guided by from the Ministry of Education and Dr. Bonnie Henry when it comes to health and safety. We are working to establish plans that will include things like:

- classroom organization within learning groups at each of the three levels (elementary, middle and secondary);
- sanitization protocols;
- student movement in common areas;
- school bus protocols.

I understand that this news may cause anxiety and worry for some. As stated, we will be sharing more information with you as we determine how these changes and measures will play out in our school district. I encourage your patience while we do this work with schools, the Ministry of Education and of course, the Provincial Health Office.

We will continue to post updates on our website [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca), SD62 [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

To learn more about what the return to class will look like, the provincial government has created a website that I encourage you to visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>.

You can read Wednesday's press release at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0054-001506>

Be well,  
Scott Stinson  
Superintendent of Schools