

School District 70 Pacific Rim

K-12 Education Restart Plan: Stage 2

Students with Diverse Abilities/Disabilities

Schools in SD70 will be open and available to welcome all students (including vulnerable students and students with diverse abilities/disabilities) starting with orientation visits on September 10, 2020. Last Spring, during Stages 3 and 4 of educational service, SD70 staff designed structures, processes and strategies to support vulnerable/diverse learners and students with disabilities. These guidelines/templates will continue to guide supports and practices for students, being open and flexible for adjustments.

To support students with diverse abilities/disabilities attend school in September 2020, SD70 plans to:

Increase/Ongoing Communication:

- Before the school year starts, staff at each School site will reach out to connect with parents/guardians of children who have significant complex and diverse needs to gather and share Information, address concerns and to plan together.
- Students with diverse needs/disabilities are often supported by community agency specialists. Case Managers will continue to collaborate with parents and School District and Community Specialists to develop common understandings, goals and supports.

Offer and Promote Full Time Attendance:

- Although attending school full time will be offered, it is anticipated that some parents will request learning opportunities for their child who has significant special needs, be held partially or fully at home instead of in a school building. If after discussing educational offerings and supports at the school site with the parent and encouraging them to have their child in attendance, parents hold to the position to not send their child back into the school building, SD70 will design an alternative delivery model which aims to keep the student linked to their enrolling school.
- Students with diverse abilities/disabilities will be offered full day schooling, noting that, for medical or health and safety reasons, some students could be in attendance for partial days. A gradual entry plan will be completed and monitored to clarify goals/support and to track progress.

Support Students:

- SD 70 staff, parents and community agencies who support students met May/June 2020 to ensure student information, needs and supports were shared so Individual Transition Plans were created and ready to share with school staff.
- Student Support Teams (School sites and District) and Administrators met In June 2020 to discuss and plan supports for students with designations, so they are prepared to plan accommodations and support for September.
- Vulnerable learners also include Children in Care and Indigenous Learners. Student Support teams at each school site will monitor/track and reach out connect and support these learners on an ongoing basis throughout the school year, across all stages of the educational plan.
- IEP's will be developed early in the 2020 school year with student, parent, teacher, specialist, and community support input. It is likely these meetings will be held virtually to limit the number of adults Inside the school building.
- District Specialists (Speech Language Therapists, District Counsellors, Physiotherapy etc.) will continue to provide service to students and staff either in person or virtually.
- Educational Assistant hours have been allocated to each SD70 school and Administrators have the flexibility to schedule based on need. We are exploring the possibility to provide some EA support in an outdoor environment, for students, who for medical reasons are not able to return to school at this time. SD 70 believes and promotes inclusive practices while supporting student independence.
- Mental Health Support: District Counsellors will continue to be assigned to each SD 70 school to provide social/emotional support to students who may experience heightened anxiety due to COVID related worries or separation. District Counsellors will also continue to support classroom teachers and other staff to better support all students.
- If Stages of K-12 Education shifts to Stages 3-5 a Learning Continuity Plan(LCP) is available for Inclusion Support Teachers at each school (on the SD 70 portal) which helps select and target relevant IEP goals paired with strategies to support continuation of student learning outside of the classroom or in a home setting.

Provide Health and Safety Supports:

- Hand washing/healthy etiquette expectations and routines for all students and staff will be strictly encouraged and monitored. If a student (of High School age) with

special needs Is unable to tolerate wearing a mask, other measures will be trialed, such as increased physical distancing and/or a different type of mask (partial face shield).

-Continued use of social stories, songs, video clips and posters are some of the tools staff will use to instruct and reinforce recommended practices how to stay healthy.

-PPE (masks, face shields, plexiglass dividers, gloves, hand sanitizers, surface disinfectant supplies) will be available for students and staff when appropriate and as needed. Instructing staff and students on health and safety protocols to routinely practice will be promoted (wiping down their desks with disinfectant wipes/spray, not sharing supplies/toys, keeping hands to self, physically distancing according to guidelines etc.

-Safety protocols will need to be designed to meet the daily needs to support some students with complex needs.