

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Continuity of Learning to Parents April 17, 2020

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/bc-ministry-of-education-questions-and-answers-continuity-of-learning-k-12-education_system.pdf

School districts are prioritizing access to in-person supports at schools for children whose parents are Essential Service Workers (ESWs) and **other students that may require support, such as students with disabilities**. All school districts have taken steps to ensure a safe and healthy environment in school facilities for students and staff.

School districts are considering how to limit in-person visits to schools and **explore in-person supports** only for those who need it most (i.e. children of essential service workers or students with disabilities).

School districts are encouraged to work and communicate regularly with their local medical health officer in the health authority to ensure that protocols that are put in place in schools respect the guidelines provided by the PHO.

Each school district will adapt cleaning practices to be in alignment with the Provincial Health Officer's Public Guidance for K-12 School Settings (Health and Safety Protocols).
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/health-and-safety-protocols-for-schools.pdf>

School districts and independent school authorities are responsible for ensuring that continuity of learning is **reasonable and accounts for the unique circumstances and abilities of individual students in a home learning environment**. For example, teachers may adapt learning plans for students with learning disabilities or students experiencing mental health challenges.

SECTION 3 | SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND DIVERSE (SPECIAL) NEEDS

What supports are in place for students with disabilities and diverse abilities?

- School districts and independent school authorities have been asked to ensure students with disabilities and diverse abilities have **access to the same level of on-going learning** as all other students. As a part of planning for on-going instruction, schools should be **proactively identifying supports or accommodations** that need to be made to support learning for students with disabilities and diverse abilities.
- Learning opportunities and assignments for students during this time are expected to be **reasonable and manageable for parents**. Teachers must work with parents and students to develop a learning plan and provide work that is manageable for them in a home environment.

****What supports are available to me if I am a parent of a child with a disability and I have no care options?**

- School districts and independent school authorities have been asked to consider the care needs of parents of students with disabilities who have no other care options as a part of their planning for supporting the children of essential service workers.

From a learning perspective, all students with disabilities and diverse abilities should have access to the same level of on-going instruction and support. What about students who were receiving 1:1 supports or specialized supports? What are the expectations for continuity of service?

- The Ministry of Education has asked school districts and independent school authorities to ensure students with disabilities and diverse abilities have **access to the same level of on-going learning** as all other students.

- For students who were receiving specialized supports (e.g. physical therapy, occupational therapy) on-site, school district and independent school teams have been asked to consider **alternate service delivery models where feasible**. Access to these services may vary by community and will depend on whether services are still available from community providers. • For students who were receiving 1:1 service, school-based teams will work with families and caregivers to develop a plan for on-going learning and supports.

Keep Learning website for parents and caregivers: <https://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/>