

Ottawa, August 13, 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATE - SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDE

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well. Today, I am pleased to present our [Back to School Guide](#). In it, you will find all the measures that will be put in place to support the mental health and safety of your children, our adult learners and our staff. You will also find all the information relating to school transportation, school operations as well as our Virtual Learning Program for CEPEO students who will stay at home.

Our Guide fully complies with the instructions of public health authorities throughout the CEPEO territory and with the requirements of the Ministry of Education. Our staff is already putting in place a whole series of measures aimed at reducing the risks of the virus spreading. For example, there will be increased cleaning, a regular schedule of handwashing, mask wearing, physical distancing and the establishment of student cohorts.

As you read the Guide, you will likely have questions, maybe even concerns. This is quite normal given the circumstances. Other communications and updates will be shared with you regularly and as often as necessary.

The English version of the guide will be available on the CEPEO website shortly.

Your choice of method of school attendance

We invite you to choose the method of school attendance (in-person or virtual) for the 2020-2021 school year for your child, or for yourself if you are 18 years old or over or if you are 16 years old and withdrawn from parental control.

You can make this choice on the [CEPEO Parents Portal](#). Your choice will be recorded, regardless of which school and grade level your child attends.

This choice is essential in planning your children's learning and must be completed by **August 19, 2020**. The choices are as follows :

1. 100% in-person learning at school (* 50% for designated high schools (Gisèle-Lalonde, Louis-Riel, De La Salle, Omer-Deslauriers) which will be alternating between classroom attendance and online learning)
2. 100% Online Learning at Home - CEPEO's Virtual School Learning Program (PAVÉ)

In the absence of a choice on your part by August 19, 2020, the school administration will assume your child will be in school in person on September 3, and carry out its planning accordingly. The administration will also manage your child's attendance and the applicable follow-ups to ensure his school attendance, as it remains compulsory under the Education Act.

Your choice could be shared with the school transportation consortium in your area for the purposes of planning transportation services.

Only the primary contact of the pupil registered in the school's information system, be it the father, mother, or guardian, can make this choice. It is up to the person identified as the primary contact who receives the information and makes this choice to consult with the other parent (if applicable) and to comply with any applicable custody order.

Changes to the choice of school attendance

It will be possible for you to request a change in method to attendance for your child during the school year.

At the elementary level (M - 8th grade), you will need to allow up to 12 weeks for the requested change to be made, in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Education. You need to make this change on this platform. This delay is necessary to facilitate the integration of a new student into a cohort in a prudent and measured manner in order to minimize the risk of the virus spreading. In the meantime, they must remain in the mode of attendance initially chosen. The school administration will inform you as soon as it is possible for your child to integrate their new class.

At the secondary level (9 - 12th), The 2020-2021 school year will be divided into 4 half-semester (terms). The change in school attendance mode can be done after the students have completed half a semester. Each semester of the school year is divided into two (term). The pupil must therefore have completed half a semester before being able to change the mode of attendance. Any change request will only apply to the following term and will retain a status "pending approval" until your new type of attendance becomes "in effect".

In closing, rest assured, dear parents, that all the CEPEO teams will be committed to supporting you and your child, during this extraordinary back-to-school season. We all have a role to play in adapting to this new situation and we thank you, in advance, for your trust and support. The health and well-being of our students remains our priority and your children will continue to learn in a welcoming and caring environment.

If you have any questions, we invite you to contact your child's school or contact us at info@cepeo.on.ca .

I hope you enjoy reading this guide and I look forward to seeing you again at the start of the school year.

Sylvie C. R. Tremblay
Director of Education