

A Message to SD 69 Parents re Options for September

Hello parents, and thank you again for your patience and support as we move toward our September restart. I apologize for any lack of clarity around the options that we have asked you to respond to via our survey that came to you on August 21. I hope that the following provides you with answers to some of your questions. See the Q and A documents posted at www.sd69.bc.ca for further clarification.

What is "home schooling", and is it the same as CEAP? Home schooling means withdrawing your child from your school, registering with the school district as a "home schooler" and taking full responsibility for educating your child at home, with some assessment supports from the school district. Some people find they want support from a Distributed Learning (DL) school such as CEAP or NIDES and choose to register in DL rather than be pure home schoolers. DL registration is full time for K-9 and course by course for grades 10-12.

Can a parent register a child at CEAP and stay part of their neighbourhood school? No, just like with true home schooling, for grades K-9, children are withdrawn from their neighbourhood school to register as full time students at CEAP. The exception is in grades 10, 11 and 12, where students may cross-enrol by taking some courses at KSS, BSS or PASS and other courses through Distributed Learning. Note that DL, whether through CEAP or another provincial DL school, means a child is learning from home with support from the DL school, and that a parent or family member has significant responsibility for supporting learning at home.

Will CEAP fill up and require a waiting list? For now we are taking all registrations for CEAP and planning to provide as much staffing and support as we need to in order to serve our CEAP learners. There is a chance that we will put a limit on registration but that is not the case at this time.

What is "home support" and is there a maximum or minimum time that my child needs to be in attendance at their neighbourhood school? Home support will be provided by the school to children who remain registered in their school but are at home for reasons of illness or concerns for family health or well-being. A doctor's note is not required for this option. There is no minimum amount of time that a child needs to be in the school but we encourage parents to have children attend as much as they can in order to have children feel connected to the school, the teacher and classmates. And as noted for DL above, in the home support model a parent or family member has significant responsibility for supporting learning at home.

When would I use "other" as response to the survey? If none of the options apply to you (in-school, home support, CEAP, home schooling or home support) you would select other as your response. This may be, for example, if you are opting to leave SD 69 for another Distributed Learning school such as NIDES, for an independent school, or for a family move to another school district. If you are choosing this option because you are not yet ready to make a decision on the options as presented, please say so in the comment for that option and someone from

your school will reach out to you for a decision. We don't want to put on undue pressure, but we will need to know as soon as possible what people's plans are.

I hope this helps. I wish you well with your decision making. I understand that this is a difficult decision for many of you and, like you, I look forward very much to being beyond the pandemic and all of the challenges that it brings.

With respect and best wishes as always,

Keven Elder
Superintendent of Schools