



Langley School District Transition Support Model

September 3, 2020



“An innovative, inspiring and unified Learning Community”

Langley School District Transition Support Model

INTRODUCTION

The Langley School District is committed to inspiring all learners to reach their full potential. Our District believes in-class instruction is best for most students in helping them achieve success. Students in the classroom is the preferred environment to provide academic, social and emotional supports for learning and minimize learning gaps. We look forward to welcoming students back in-class. As always, health and safety are our top priority in our planning.

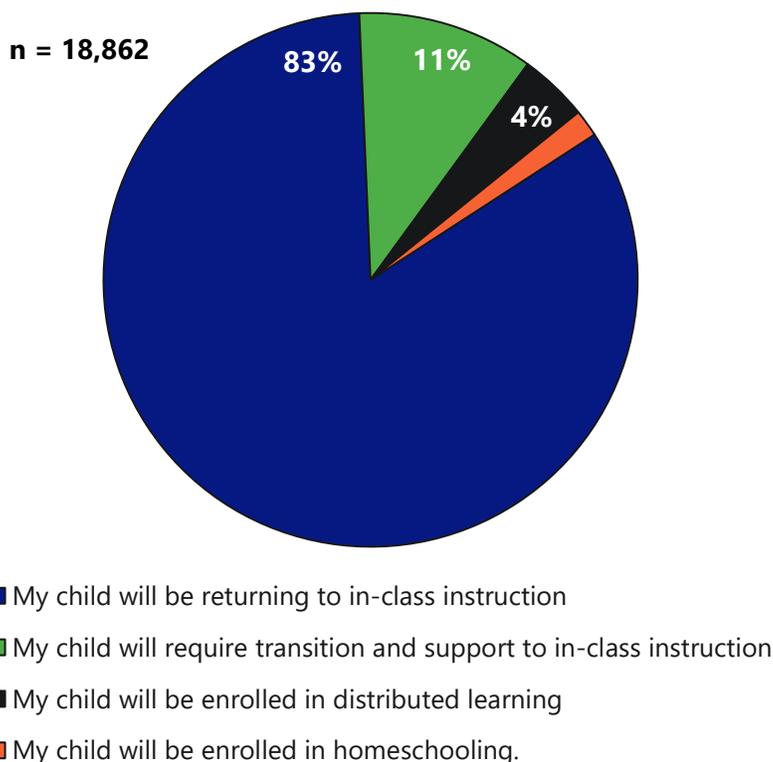
At this point, we also understand that this is a challenging time for families and that some parents/guardians and students are anxious about the return to school. With more than 40 schools in the District and diverse school populations, we recognize there will be a variation in needs expressed by families, especially due to impacts of COVID-19. We know some families may not be ready for full-time instruction. We took the time to listen, develop, and communicate a plan to support your child.

BACKGROUND ON THE RETURN TO SCHOOL SURVEY

On Friday, August 28th, schools sent home a survey to gather information needed to help staff develop plans for the return to school. The District outlined four options for parents/guardians to select from and indicate their child's intended learning method in September. One of the options included the need for transition and support to in-class instruction. The response rate was high with 18,862 respondents (parents/guardians responding on behalf of their child) out of approximately 21,000 students. That is 90 per cent of our families responding! We appreciate and value the response from our parent community. Thank you for engaging and being a part of helping us build a caring, connected, learning community.

WHAT WE LEARNED...

Since the closing of the survey, we have had many families express their interest in returning to school after consulting with administrators. Our staff are continuing to connect with families who have not responded. We will be available to answer your questions to help your family make an informed decision. The District encourages parents/guardians to read the [District plan](#), and school plans, and if necessary, have a conversation with your administrator in the coming days.



WHAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED...

School and District staff have developed a Transition Support Model based on information gathered, provincial health and safety guidelines, and other important considerations including scheduling, staffing, and resources.

To begin the 2020-2021 school year, our District will be offering a gradual transition for those students who need the support at-home prior to returning to in-class instruction.

This model will include a combination of online and in-class learning, meaning that students will be taught both at-home online and in-school. The purpose of the model is to gradually increase in-class learning and keep students enrolled and connected to their existing school.



What parents/guardians need to know

The primary goal of this model is to have students transition to in-class instruction by providing educational programming while gradually increasing face-to-face time in school.

- Any student who enters the Transition Support Model will begin on September 14 (for secondary) or September 21 (elementary/middle) and continue to November 17 (for secondary) and December 18 (for elementary/middle).
- Students in the Transition Support Model for elementary/middle school are expected to return to full-time in-class instruction on January 5, 2021 in order to respect the integrity of our learning cohorts and help schools adhere to provincial health and safety guidelines.
- Students in the Transition Support Model for secondary school will be supported to return to full-time in-class after quarter 1. For those not ready to return, school staff will meet with students to assess individual needs and determine next steps.

At the elementary and middle school level, students will be provided the opportunity to have at-home online learning in the morning daily. Students will be able to attend in-person for in-class support up to four afternoons per week. Students can choose when and how often they want to attend a scheduled in-class session for the duration of the model. This model is designed to give families the ability to determine when it is the right time to return to face-to-face instruction prior to January 5, 2021.

At the secondary level, students will decide (in consultation with their school) when they want to begin attending in-class.

It is important to note, the Transition Support Model is not an online learning program. It is also not going to be the same as what your child experienced last Spring during Stage 3 of the Ministry of Education's Five Stages Framework for K-12 Education. It is a model focused on transition and support for students in need and requires daily parent involvement. Students will be in a multi-grade learning group for the duration of the model and possibly in January when they return to in-class instruction. In some cases, they may be learning with students from other schools in their region for the entire school year.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Transition Support Model will:

- Focus on literacy and numeracy curricular competencies;
- Build confidence in gradually returning to face-to-face learning;
- Keep students enrolled in their existing school;
- Establish clear guidelines for parental engagement;
- Provide the opportunity for students to return full-time in-person to school on January 5, 2021.

What parents/guardians can expect at the elementary school/middle school level:

Instruction	<p>Classes likely will be multi-grade for the duration of the model, with a focus on literacy and numeracy instruction. Teachers will be available for online support each morning along with afternoon in-class instruction as determined at the school level. The in-school portion will gradually increase to four afternoons per week, with the intent of developing comfort and confidence in returning to school full-time.</p> <p><u>For Elementary School</u> - Due to staffing limitations, the Transition Support Model may not provide instruction at a student's existing school, or as outlined above in choice programs (e.g. French Immersion).</p> <p><u>For Middle School</u> - The Transition Support Model will not provide all opportunities that full-time face-to-face middle school programs have to offer (e.g. French Immersion, Explorations and Band). Due to staffing limitations, the model may not provide instruction at a student's existing school.</p>
Parent Involvement	<p>Parents need to dedicate substantial time for support and guidance in this model. Teachers will continue to liaise with parents to provide guidance for the at-home learning portion.</p>
Teacher Collaboration	<p>Teacher collaboration time is intended to connect teachers across the District to assist with lesson planning and instructional practice.</p>

Staffing	Transition Support Model classes will be staffed with a teacher who is assigned to a school. In some cases, a teacher may be assigned to a group of schools.
Diverse Learners	Students with diverse abilities will receive equitable access within the Transition Support Model. Resource Teachers will collaborate with parents and Transition Support Model teachers to develop Individual Education Plans (IEP). District staff will deliver enhanced services and consultation virtually when they are at home, and face-to-face when they are physically in-school. District staff will not deliver special education supports in the home.
English Language Learners	Students in need of support from our English Language Learners department will continue to have access to support in this model.
Aboriginal Program Learners	Those students who have completed the necessary self-identification consultation letter and need support from our Aboriginal Program will continue to have access through this model.
Start Date	This model will start September 21, 2020.

Sample Schedule:

Schedules are site dependent and will be determined by school staff.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning	Online	Online	Online	Online	Online
Afternoon	Teacher Collaboration Time	IN-SCHOOL INSTRUCTION (GRADUAL RETURN) (UP TO 4 AFTERNOONS; SCHEDULE SET BY SCHOOL SITE)			

SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Transition Support Model will:

- Focus on providing academic support for students working on class assignments;
- Build confidence in gradually returning to face-to-face learning;
- Keep students enrolled in their existing school;
- Establish clear guidelines for parental engagement;
- Provide the opportunity for students to return full-time to their school at a defined point in the year (e.g. end of quarter 1, or at some point determined by the student in consultation with school staff).

What parents/guardians can expect at the secondary school level:

Instruction	<p>Students remain in their quarter 1 class(es). Classroom teachers would provide assignments and readings to support learning outcomes met during regular face-to-face instruction. A separate support teacher will provide online support as determined at the school level. The in-school portion will gradually increase with the intent of developing comfort and confidence in returning to school full-time.</p> <p><i>Due to staffing limitations, this model may not provide instruction as outlined in choice programs (e.g. French Immersion).</i></p>
Parent Involvement	<p>Parents need to dedicate substantial time for support and guidance in this model. Teachers will continue to liaise with parents to provide guidance for the at-home learning portion.</p>
Staffing	<p>Transition Support Model classes will be staffed with a teacher who is assigned to a given school. Teachers may change over the course of the Transition Support Model.</p>
Diverse Learners	<p>Students with diverse abilities will receive equitable access within the Transition Support Model. Resource Teachers will collaborate with parents and Transition Support Model teachers to develop Individual Education Plans (IEP).</p> <p>District staff will deliver enhanced services and consultation virtually when they are at home, and face-to-face when they are physically in-school. District staff will not deliver special education supports in the home.</p>
English Language Learners	<p>Students in need of support from our English Language Learners department will continue to have access to support in this model.</p>
Aboriginal Program Learners	<p>Those students who have completed the necessary self-identification consultation letter and need support from our Aboriginal Program will continue to have access through this model.</p>
Start Date	<p>This model will start September 14, 2020.</p>
Schedule	<p>Students will be in their regular schedules under the quarter system; schedules will be distributed by the school by September 11, 2020.</p>

What parents/guardians must do in order to have their child start the school year in the Transition Support Model:

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. Read the [District Plan](#), your school plan, and this Transition Support Model to help your family make an informed decision.
2. If you selected the Transition Support Model in our initial survey, please complete the online registration form which will be sent by your school in the coming days indicating your intention for your child's return to school and/or learning opportunity in the Transition Support Model. This must be completed by **September 8** to give staff time to plan a successful start for your child.
3. Your administrator will communicate next steps based on your decision.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

1. Read the [District Plan](#), your school plan, and this Transition Support Model to help your family make an informed decision.
2. If you selected the Transition Support Model in our initial survey, contact your administrator as soon as possible.
3. School staff will confirm your intention and outline next steps.

Questions You May Have About the Transition Program

Will the Transition Support Model include online learning?

Yes. The Transition Support Model is a combination of online and in-class learning, meaning that students will be taught both at-home online and in-school face-to-face. It is important to note, some of the online learning will be in the form of online support and not an entire online lesson.

Why isn't there a full-time online only option available for students through my child's existing school?

Our District and the Ministry of Education believe in-class instruction is best for most students in helping them achieve success. In line with the Ministry of Education's direction, our hope is for students to attend full time in-class or gradually transition to full-time face-to-face instruction. For those families that do not intend to return to their catchment school at all for the 2020-2021 school year, the District is continuing to look into other opportunities in our Distributed Learning program at Langley Education Centre and U-Connect. Our staff will continue to consult with families and assess the interest for a full-time online learning option for Kindergarten to Grade 9.

Will my child be able to remain enrolled in their existing school if I choose the Transition Support Model as an option?

Elementary/Middle School

Yes. Families will remain enrolled in their existing school while they are in the model. However, families must decide by January 5, 2021 (the start of the next term after winter break) if their child will stay at their existing school. Students wishing to remain at their existing school are expected to attend full-time in-class instruction by January 5, 2021.

Secondary School

Yes. Families will remain enrolled in their existing school while they are in this model.

Note: The above applies for choice programs. If your child is in a choice program and plans on leaving the school in January or at any point after, they will no longer be enrolled in that choice program. Thereafter, if your child wishes to return the following year, the family must re-register for that choice program. The District cannot guarantee a space will be available.

Will my child be able to return to in-class instruction at any time while in the Transition Support Model?

Elementary/Middle School

No. Once a student is in the Transition Support Model, they must remain in the model until December 18. This is to ensure the integrity of our cohort and help schools adhere to provincial health and safety guidelines.

Secondary School

Students will be able to decide to return to full-time in-class instruction (in consultation with their school) before November 17. Secondary schools will be providing more information.

Will my child be able to switch between the Transition Support Model and in-class instruction multiple times in the year?

Elementary/Middle School

No. Once a student is in the Transition Support Model, they must remain in the model until December 18. This is to ensure the integrity of our cohort and help schools adhere to provincial health and safety guidelines.

Secondary School

Students will be able to decide to return to full-time in-class instruction (in consultation with their school) before November 17. Secondary schools will be providing more information.

Will my child have the same teacher while in the Transition Support Model, meaning will the same teacher be delivering instruction online and in-class?

Yes, in the elementary and middle school level. This is not the case in the secondary school level. Students at the secondary level will learn with their classroom teacher and with support from another teacher.

Will my child have the same teacher when they return to in-class instruction full-time in January, meaning will their Transition Support Model teacher also transition and become their in-class teacher full-time?

Elementary/Middle School

It depends on the school and number of students in the model (regional vs. school specific). Students may remain with the same (multi-grade learning group) class they started the school year with and the same teacher for the duration of the school year.

Secondary School

Yes. Students will have the same teachers.

Will my child be with students in the same grade while in the Transition Support Model? After the Transition Support Model?

Elementary/Middle School

No, students will be mixed in a multi-grade learning group, while in the Transition Support Model.

In January, students may remain in a multi-grade learning group when they return to full-time in-class instruction.

Secondary School

The support teacher may be supporting students in multi-grade learning groups.

Will my child be with students in the same school while in the Transition Support Model? After the Transition Support Model?

The grouping of students from the same school all depends on the number of students (demand). There may be some cases where students will be scheduled in online and in-class learning opportunities with other students from other schools in their region (multi-grade learning group).

Will my child with diverse abilities be supported in the Transition Support Model?

Students with diverse abilities will receive equitable access within the Transition Support Model. Resource Teachers will collaborate with parents and Transition Support Model teachers to develop Individual Education Plans (IEP).

District staff will deliver enhanced services and consultation virtually when they are at home, and face-to-face when they are physically in-school. District staff will not deliver enhanced service supports in the home.

If my child attends Langley Fine Arts, is this Transition Support Model applicable?

No. Langley Fine Arts is adapting their school specific model to support all students. Contact Langley Fine Arts administrators for more information.

Will the District loan electronic devices needed for at-home learning to assist students in the Transition Support Model?

Families will be expected to provide their own devices. However, as always, our District will work with families to support their needs with regards to technology and devices.

What do I do if I want to register my child in the Transition Support Model even though I indicated they would return to full-time in-class instruction in September?

Please contact your school administrator to discuss your child's return to school plan.