Peace River School Division 2020-2021 School Relaunch Plan

Scenario 3



Updated - July 22, 2020

Scenario 3: At-Home Learning (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled)



Introduction

The Peace River School Division (PRSD) is pleased to provide its 2020-2021 **Scenario 3** School Relaunch Plan. Outlined in this plan is the division's response in the event the Government of Alberta directs school divisions to follow Scenario 3 where classes are suspended/cancelled and learning occurs at home. This scenario has been developed based on PRSD's recent Home Learning Plan, student/parent/staff surveys, discussions with school administrators, and review of best practices for online learning.

As communicated in the PRSD 2020-2021 <u>Scenario 1 of our School Relaunch Plan</u> released on July 15, 2020, the three possible scenarios for educational delivery at the start of the school year are as follows:

- 1. In-School Classes resume (near normal operations with health measures)
- 2. In-School Classes partially resume (with additional health measures)
- 3. At-Home Learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled

On July 21, 2020, Alberta Education advised that schools will be operating under Scenario 1 (resumption of in-school classes with extra health measures) at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Yet, it is important to note that the status of the pandemic may change on short notice, hence impacting how educational services will be delivered. As such, the PRSD will be prepared to implement either of the scenarios based on future direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Government.

For each school relaunch scenario, one of our guiding principles for decision making is "we will ensure health and safety of our students and staff." This Scenario 3 plan is designed to support our collective responsibility to ensure we maximize health and safety for students and staff while also ensuring that student learning continues.

I wish to thank all stakeholders for their continuing patience, understanding and support throughout these challenging times. You have done a magnificent job of promoting PRSD's mission of "Learning Together-Success For All."

I especially wish to thank members of our senior leadership team who have worked tirelessly over these last several weeks to develop this and related plans, our school administrators for their input and feedback, and our students, parents and staff who participated in the re-entry survey in June. All feedback is being considered and will be balanced with guidelines provided by Alberta Education.

Paul Bennett Superintendent of Schools

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Overview

The PRSD Home learning plan is provided to prepare teachers, students, and parents for offsite learning opportunities during the cancellation of classes. Through regular communication and ongoing collaboration, we endeavor to provide the best learning opportunities for students. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to ensure that PRSD continues to support students in fulfilling the mission of learning together, success for all. We remain committed to student learning, well-being and success while following the direction and guidance of the Government of Alberta.

Guidelines

- Teachers will be prepared to deliver course content through any of the three scenarios identified, depending on direction from the Alberta Government.
- Teachers will assign work as per the Alberta Program of Studies, and develop crosscurricular assignments and activities as per the guidelines under the Content Delivery section below.
- I-coaches will continue to address the specific programming needs for children who are not enrolled in the regular classroom curriculum, and will continue to collaborate with parents/guardians through this process.
- Where online learning opportunities are not available, schools will offer supports through course packages and through the communications guidelines below.
- Students will access learning activities and resources on a regular basis and stay updated on scheduled events and important dates. Students are expected to participate in all scheduled class activities (attend virtual classes or work with the learning packages), and submit all required work.
- Technical support for students will be initiated through the school. School staff will contact Technology Services, if needed, through the technology services help desk process.
- Files and online communications will remain in the Google for Education line of products unless explicitly approved (Including but not limited to Gmail, Hangouts Meet, Hangouts Chat, Google Drive, Google Classroom).

Communication

Communication between teachers and their students and parents is always an important consideration, especially when educational services are delivered virtually (Scenario 3 - at-home learning). In addition to the delivery of real-time (synchronous) lessons for specified times each day (**see the later Content Delivery section**), teachers will also formalize a communications process with their students aligned with the following guidelines:

- Teachers will initially communicate with parents/students to inform them of how their classes will be organized and delivered, and how student work will be assessed, and will maintain communications with them for the duration of Scenario 3 delivery.
- Teachers will advise parents/students of the best ways and optimal times to be contacted. Communication will be conducted by way of phone calls, or through other means (e.g., email, google meet, google classroom) as requested by families.
- I-coaches will contact parents/guardians regarding specific programming needs for children who are not enrolled in regular classroom curriculum.
- If parents have concerns, they should contact the classroom teacher to discuss the concern. If the concern is not resolved, parents are then asked to contact the school administrator.
- For families requesting paper packages, arrangements for pick-up and return of the packages will be communicated by school staff.

Content Delivery

Scenario three program delivery will be through real time, live (synchronous) online (virtual) daily lessons. All daily online lessons will be recorded for later access by students. Principals will ensure instruction is scheduled to include breaks between online classes. To identify what content needs to be delivered, teachers will evaluate curricular outcomes that need to be covered, prioritize essential outcomes based on what is manageable for students working from home, and will plan specific tasks and projects for students. Essential outcomes are those students need to understand to be successful at the next grade level and to be well prepared to perform on Provincial Achievement Tests, Diploma exams and other summative assessments. Teachers will be expected to collaborate with parents to help ensure students' success with the identified essential outcomes.

In situations where students do not have reliable internet services, schools will identify plans whereby packages of materials will be developed and made available for students, and for students to return any required work for feedback and grading.

In addition to planning and delivering essential outcomes in core subject areas, teachers will continue to use Collaborative Response to support students experiencing academic challenges.

Content delivery for each grade is broken down as follows as per Alberta Education guidelines:

Kindergarten-Grade 3

- Education content will continue to focus on essential outcomes for two hours each day.
 - Teachers will deliver one hour of live (synchronous) instruction for literacy and one hour of live (synchronous) instruction for numeracy per day.
 - Teachers will incorporate health curriculum outcomes (with a focus on mental health) into their weekly lessons.

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• For students who do not have the internet services necessary for participation in online learning, teachers will provide work packages aligned with the online class content, and support students in the completion of important learning tasks through regular daily contact with families.

Grades 4-6

- Education content will continue to focus on essential outcomes for three hours per day.
 - Teachers will deliver one hour of live (synchronous) instruction for literacy and one hour of live (synchronous) instruction for numeracy per day.
 - Through a cross-curricular approach, teachers will incorporate science, social studies and health (with a focus on mental wellness) into online daily one-hour lessons.
- For students who do not have the internet services necessary for participation in online learning, teachers will provide work packages aligned with the online class content, and support students in the completion of important learning tasks through regular daily contact with families.

Grades 7-9

- Education content will continue to focus on essential outcomes for four hours per day.
 - Education content will focus on one hour of live (synchronous) instruction for each of the core areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and health (with a focus on physical and mental health) curriculum outcomes.
- For students who do not have the internet services necessary for participation in online learning, teachers will provide work packages aligned with the online class content, and support students in the completion of important learning tasks through regular contact with families.

Grades 10-12

- Education content will continue to focus on essential outcomes.
- Program delivery will follow the established high school timetable for the 2020-2021 school year through live (synchronous) online (virtual) learning.
- Program delivery will focus on specified and core course requirements for high school graduation, including language (English, Francais and French Language Arts), social studies, mathematics, and science (biology, chemistry, physics, and science).
- Content from other courses will be delivered where possible, and accommodations for students unable to complete courses will be in place.
- For students who do not have the internet services necessary for participation in online learning, teachers will provide work packages aligned with the online class content, and support students in the completion of important learning tasks through regular contact with families.

School Based Assessment

Teachers must engage in ongoing formative and summative assessment of student achievement of the essential outcomes in the identified priority curricula.

Provincial Assessments

If the 2020-2021 school year commences with Scenario 3, or quickly shifts to it, the PRSD will follow Alberta Education's directives regarding Provincial Achievement Tests and Diplomas.

Video Chat Guidelines

- If video chats are used, parents must be present, or the video chats may only be established with small or large groups of students.
- Parents should ensure a camera/computer is set up in a 'common' space in the home such as the kitchen or living room.

Mental Health

If your child is struggling emotionally and not coping with the unexpected changes given the current situation, our School Social Workers will provide mental health support via single phone sessions. The 15-30 minute sessions will provide emotional support through the provision of coping strategies and information regarding other community resources. A list of mental health resources for children and families can be found on our website <u>here</u>.

This plan may need to change depending on the duration of cancelled classes and/or the nature of the pandemic over the coming weeks and/or months.