

May 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

On May 4th the Minister of Education indicated that schools outside of the Greater Montreal area could take advantage of a progressive entry to facilitate the reopening of elementary schools. With the particular challenges involved with the transportation of students across our vast territory the ETSB opted for its progressive entry, to open all schools on May 13th. Reopening on the 13th will allow us to reorganize our transportation schedules, and prepare our elementary schools to be sure that we are in line with the conditions as set out by the *Direction de Santé Publique (DSPu)* for the reopening of schools. Our Adult Education and Vocational Training Centres will resume activities as previously decided on May 11th. The safety of our students and staff will be our priority and will guide us throughout.

Over and above the DSPu directives, we have four criteria to be considered before we open our schools, namely:

- Personnel in place to meet the needs of the student clientele.
- Adequate space in the building to meet the criteria as per *Santé Publique* and the Ministry guidelines.
- The proper sanitary equipment, cleaning supplies, and protective equipment, to maintain a safe environment for students and staff.
- That school bus transportation can be provided as per the directives of Santé Publique for those requiring it.

If any of these criteria are not met, we will assess the situation and review the reopening of a school.

DAYCARE SERVICES

With the progressive reopening of elementary schools, daycare services will only be offered on May 11th and 12th for those students of parents who are part of the essential services. The hours will be the same as on a planning day.

Please contact your school to register your child so that the school may ensure they have adequate capacity.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation services will be minimal. Parents are asked, whenever it is possible, to drive their own child(ren) to school. For families with shared custody, due to the restrictions for transportation, we can accommodate only one address per student. **For any changes the transportation department will re-evaluate routes on Mondays. You must give one week's notice. (ex. For your child to have transportation on May 19th, you must inform us by Monday May 11th.)**

The directives mandated by the government, might force us to adopt extraordinary measures such as altering bus routes or dividing a bus route into multiple runs.

Bus drivers, like all of our staff, will follow the security measures recommended by the Santé publique, therefore do not be alarmed if your child's bus driver is wearing a mask or other protective gear.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If your child is not feeling well, please keep them at home. If they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please call Info Santé at 1-877-644-4545.

If your child develops symptoms while at school you will be called to pick them up immediately, so please ensure that the school has your emergency contact numbers.

If a child has a pre-existing condition (or a family member does) they are *strongly* encouraged to stay home.

School is voluntary. Students staying home will still receive the kits provided by the MEES, have access to the [ETSB Home Learning Ideas](#) website and receive regular communication by the school.

We want to stress the importance of informing us if your child(ren) will be attending school. If you have previously indicated that your child will not be attending and you change your mind and decide to send your child to school, we ***absolutely need to know, at least, one full week in advance.*** This is to allow us the necessary time to make sure we are able to provide a safe and secure environment to our staff and all of our students.

Should you change your mind and want to stop sending your child(ren) to school, you must notify the school immediately for logistical reasons.

In closing, once again we want to thank you for your understanding and collaboration. Working together and supporting each other we will get through this.



Michel Soucy,
Interim Director General



Michael Murray
Chairman