

Remote Learning K-12
2020-2021 School Year
Updated: August 24, 2020

Engaging Students During Remote Learning

During remote learning, students and parents/guardians will be provided with a daily schedule or timetable that includes up to 300 minutes of synchronous (live) learning opportunities.

Programming will be based on the full Ontario curriculum and includes guided instruction, large and small group learning, check-ins and independent work. Teachers will be available to students at all times during the teachers' assigned teaching timetables as they would be if they were face-to-face in a classroom setting.

Synchronous (live) Learning

Scheduled synchronous learning sessions will be communicated to parents/guardians and students. The information below outlines the minimum amount of time per day that students, depending on their grade level, will be provided with synchronous learning as part of their timetable.

Division Grade Level of Students
Daily Minimum Synchronous Learning Time Requirement*

Elementary

Kindergarten - 180 minutes

Students will become part of a new online classroom.

All students in the class will be remote synchronous learners.

All curriculum will be covered, where possible.

Grades 1 to 3 - 225 minutes

Students will become part of a new online classroom.

All students in the class will be remote synchronous learners.

All curriculum will be covered, where possible.

Grades 4 to 8 - 225 minutes

Students will become part of a new online classroom.

All students in the class will be remote synchronous learners.

All curriculum will be covered, where possible.

The synchronous learning time requirements outlined above may be divided into shorter periods throughout the school day.

Secondary

Grades 9 to 12 - 300 minutes (150 minutes in the morning and 150 minutes in the afternoon)

Students will connect live to their regular classroom teachers.

Synchronous learning will be provided for large and small groups of students each day in a manner similar to in-person classroom teaching.

Synchronous learning time may include students working independently and in small groups while engaged in a virtual classroom with the teacher overseeing their learning and available for questions.

The synchronous learning requirements are part of the 300-minute instructional day during which teachers remain available to students.

Additional group meetings may take place between educators and students as needed to address specific learning needs.

Student responsibilities

The Ontario Ministry of Education has directed school boards to offer teacher-led distance synchronous learning for all students. As such, there is an expectation that students will participate, with the support of their teachers, to the best of their abilities.

Along with the Ministry of Education, it is our expectation that students connect synchronously each day, engage in lessons and complete the assigned work. As always, students and families should connect with their teachers if they have questions or concerns.

During distance learning, students are required to adapt to new learning environments. Teachers will communicate clear expectations for students. Students should:

- Establish daily routines and follow class times for engaging in synchronous learning experiences
- Find a comfortable, quiet space in their home where they can work effectively and successfully
- Monitor communication with their teacher(s), to check for announcements and feedback
- Do their best to complete assignments with integrity and academic honesty
- Do their best to meet timelines, commitments and due dates
- Communicate proactively with their teacher(s) if requiring additional support
- Comply with Rainbow District School Board's Administrative Procedures including the Code of Conduct and expectations for online etiquette and digital citizenship

Teacher responsibilities

Rainbow District School Board remains committed to enabling all students to reach their potential and to succeed. Teachers are central to ensuring this occurs and to meeting this challenge, always with the well-being of students first and foremost.

Parent/guardian responsibilities

The transition to distance learning may not be simple or easy for everyone. We know you will continue to provide incredible support to your child(ren), while managing a number of stressors.

We ask that parents/guardians assist with the following:

- Ensuring that students connect each day and follow the class schedule for synchronous learning
- Encourage students to engage with live online lessons, presentations and classroom activities
- As always, assist when needed to help your child complete homework and meet class commitments, timelines and due dates

Learning activities will be assigned with careful consideration of grade level, and accommodations that may be required for students. If you have concerns, please contact your child's teacher(s).

Communication Processes

Teachers will communicate to students and parents/guardians a regular schedule of synchronous learning sessions that fulfills the minimum time requirements, as part of their remote learning timetable. Teachers will accommodate parents who request a meeting through other modes (e.g., by telephone, through a virtual platform) when an in-person meeting is not possible.

Differentiated Assessment and Instruction

Teachers will provide daily opportunities for each student to receive meaningful feedback. The policy outlined in *Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, 2010* continues to apply during periods of remote learning and teachers will employ assessment for, as, and of learning (including diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment), as required. Teachers will provide differentiated support to all students, including English and French Language Learners, and students with special education needs who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Supporting Students with Special Education Needs

Where appropriate, educators will provide more opportunities than the minimum requirements for synchronous learning for students with special education needs, based on their individual strengths and needs, and provide differentiated support and instruction.

Educators will continue to provide accommodations, modified expectations, and alternative programming to students with special education needs as detailed in their IEPs. If it is not possible to meet a student's needs through synchronous learning, educators and families will work together to find solutions.

Rainbow District School Board will provide continued access to assistive technology, including Special Equipment Amount (SEA) equipment, where possible, to support students with special education needs as they participate in remote learning. In situations where access to assistive technology is not feasible, educators will work with students and parents to determine workable solutions on an individual basis.

Student Attendance and Safety

Student attendance will be taken daily at the elementary level and per course at the secondary level. Attendance counsellors will continue to support student attendance, engagement and well-being. Teachers will continue to share with students established procedures related to online safety, privacy and cyber security.

Access to Remote Learning Devices Laptops, Tablets and the Internet

Rainbow District School Board will continue to work collaboratively with parents to ensure that all students have access to remote learning devices and the Internet during remote learning. In situations where students do not have access to remote learning devices or the Internet, and Rainbow is unable to provide this support, we will work collaboratively with students and parents/guardians to establish alternative arrangements on an individual basis.

Remote/Synchronous Learning Platforms

- Elementary - SeeSaw/Google Classroom
- Secondary - D2L/Google Classroom

Cyber Security, Privacy and Online Safety

The protection of privacy and the cyber security of educators, students, and parents/guardians is paramount to supporting a safe and inclusive learning environment for remote learning. Policies and protocols regarding digital conduct and privacy will be clearly communicated to educators, students and parents/guardians. Students and educators will not share passwords. Student initials will be used for account creation instead of full names. Teachers will be the last ones to leave synchronous learning sessions. Rainbow will continue to provide professional resources to all school staff to increase cyber security awareness.

Technical Support for Remote Learning

Technical support will be provided, where possible, to assist educators, students and parent/guardians in the use of board-provided devices and access to the Internet during remote learning.

Supports will be targeted to assist users who have specific technological problems and questions. In the context of remote learning, technical support should span the full spectrum of users' technological needs, including devices, connectivity, security and digital learning tools and applications.

Parents/guardians and students who are encountering technical issues during remote sessions should contact the school principal. Educators, parents/guardians or students having technical difficulties with their equipment should contact the IT Service Desk at 705.674.3171 ext. 7777 or toll-free at 1.888.421.2661.