

## MESSAGES FROM BOARD CHAIR AND SUPERINTENDENT

### Hello!

Welcome to the 2025–26 school year!

The start of a new school year brings excitement, optimism, and a sense of fresh possibility. There's a special kind of energy that fills our schools, from the playground to the hallways, and most of all, in the classroom, where curiosity and connection come to life.

Surrey Schools is a vibrant and diverse district—home to more than 83,000 students across over 130 schools. As the largest public school district in B.C., we're proud of the inclusive, respectful, and supportive environments our staff, students, and families help create every day.

On behalf of the Surrey Board of Education, we wish you all the best for a wonderful school year!



**Gary Tymoschuk**  
*Chair, Surrey Board  
of Education*

### Hello and Ey' Swayell!

I want to extend a warm welcome to all students, families, and staff this 2025-26 school year. Each September brings a renewed sense of purpose, a chance to set new goals, form meaningful connections, and create lasting memories.

At Surrey Schools, we believe every student has the potential to shine. Our shared commitment to inclusion, creativity and curiosity helps make our schools vibrant places to learn and grow. We prepare our learners to think creatively and critically, communicate skillfully and demonstrate care for self and others — skills that will serve them well both in and beyond the classroom.

No matter your path this year, know that you are part of a caring community that's here to support you every step of the way. To help you stay informed and connected, visit [surreyschools.ca](https://surreyschools.ca) and log in to Surrey Schools ONE for important updates, helpful resources and tools to support student success.

Let's approach the months ahead with optimism, openness, and a willingness to learn from one another. Together, we can build a school year full of achievement, discovery and connection.

Thank you for being part of our community. On behalf of senior administration, we wish you a great year ahead!



**Mark Pearmain**  
*Superintendent  
& CEO,  
Surrey Schools*



Surrey School District  
14033 92 Avenue,  
Surrey, B.C. V3V 0B7



[www.surreyschools.ca](https://www.surreyschools.ca)



[surreyschools](https://www.facebook.com/surreyschools)



[surrey\\_schools](https://www.instagram.com/surrey_schools)



[604-596-7733](tel:604-596-7733)

## ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

Head to the district's main website at [www.surreyschools.ca](http://www.surreyschools.ca) for a wide range of information and resources, including:

- The latest district news
- School year calendars
- Newsletters and information brochures
- Specialty program information
- Student registration
- School and community events
- District policies and regulations
- Online payments
- Student support services
- Search tools for educational programs and community services
- Summer learning opportunities
- Graduation, transcript & scholarship information
- Career education

Your school also has a website where you can find information specific to your school. Here are some other helpful resources to stay up-to-date:



### SURREY SCHOOLS APP

Download the Surrey Schools app in the iOS or Google Play store to get the latest info and alerts from your school & the district.



### MAILING LIST

For newsletters and other important announcements, ensure your family's current email address is on file at school.



### SOCIAL MEDIA

The district is active on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, LinkedIn & X. Check with your school to see if it has official social media accounts to follow.



We respectfully acknowledge that Surrey Schools resides on the traditional, unceded, and shared territories of Coast Salish peoples: The Katzie, the Kwantlen and the Semiahmoo First Nations: the stewards of this land since time immemorial. We highlight this history knowing that relationships and partnerships based on respect with the Indigenous peoples of this land is important for truth and reconciliation.

## STAY HEALTHY, WASH YOUR HANDS

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

When to wash your hands:

- Before and after eating
- After using the washroom
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After handling shared objects
- After handling animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After being outside
- After cleaning or handling garbage

How to wash your hands?

Wash your hands often with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. If warm water and soap are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



### REMINDER

Stay home when  
you're sick

## TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health is not always easy to understand. Sometimes it's confusing and hard to talk about. Many people experience mental health concerns—it's more common than you think.

### SELF-CARE IDEAS FOR STRESSFUL DAYS:

- Be kind to yourself
- Connect with nature
- Slow down
- Do something you love
- Call a friend
- Move your body
- Listen to music
- Write about how you feel
- Read a book
- Take a moment to breathe
- Practice mindfulness
- Eat something nourishing
- Take a break from technology
- Get creative
- Find something to be grateful for
- Play a sport
- Do something kind
- Go outside
- Celebrate today
- Connect with your school counsellor

### SUPPORTS:

Emergency Mental Health Crisis: 911

Kids Help Line: 1-800-668-6868 or  
text CONNECT to 686868

Fraser Health Crisis Line:  
604-951-8855

Suicide Prevention Crisis Line:  
1-800-784-2433

### RESOURCES:

Kelty Mental Health:  
[www.keltymentalhealth.ca](http://www.keltymentalhealth.ca)

Foundry BC:  
[www.foundrybc.ca](http://www.foundrybc.ca)

Fraser Health:  
[www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca)

BC Child & Youth Mental Health Services:  
[www.bit.ly/2OgzJzE](http://www.bit.ly/2OgzJzE)

Surrey Schools:  
[surreyschools.ca/mentalhealth](http://surreyschools.ca/mentalhealth)



## SCHOOL SAFETY ALERT SYSTEM

Surrey Schools has a school safety alert system that helps keep students, staff and volunteers safe during an actual or potential threat to safety.

School administrators are authorized to activate a safety alert, and drills take place at schools regularly to ensure everyone knows the safety rules and how to follow them. The alert system uses specific terms and actions for various situations:

- **Lockdown** is used in situations where there is a safety risk inside the building.
- **Hold & Secure** is used where there is a safety risk outside the building.
- **Shelter in Place** is used where there are concerns about issues such as extreme weather, poor air quality or a wild animal on school grounds.
- **All Clear** is announced over the school's PA system when there is no longer a threat to the safety of students, staff and volunteers.

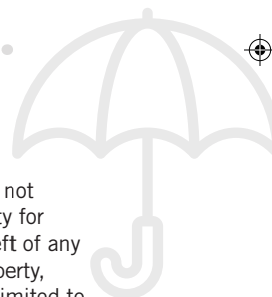


### ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

Surrey Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities. The Medical Services Plan (MSP) limits amounts paid and does not cover some charges. Injury-related costs (not covered or limited under MSP and group insurance plans) may include eyeglasses, dental treatment, ambulance transportation, rental of crutches or wheelchairs, splints and casts, physiotherapy and private tutors. Inexpensive student accident insurance is available. Please find more information under Community > Family Accident Insurance at [www.surreyschools.ca](http://www.surreyschools.ca).

### COVER YOUR LOSSES

Surrey Schools will not accept responsibility for loss, damage or theft of any student-owned property, including, but not limited to clothing, schools supplies, equipment, electronics (e.g. tablets, phones, laptops), vehicles or cash. Items brought to, or left on school district premises are at the student's risk. It is the responsibility of the student or parent to arrange insurance to cover any loss or damage to personal property brought to school.



## ASSESSMENT OF RISK TO OTHERS (ARTO) PROCESS

Formally Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)  
Notice to students and their parents/guardians.

### Fair Notice

#### WHAT BEHAVIOURS INITIATE A STUDENT RISK ASSESSMENT?

A student risk assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to, serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, online threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats, fire setting, hate incidents motivated by factors including but are not limited to: race, culture, religion, and/or sexual orientation, sextortion, or assault, gang related intimidation and violence.

**WHAT IS A RISK?** A risk is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Risks may be verbal, written, drawn, posted online, or made by gesture. Risks must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to.

**DUTY TO REPORT** To keep school communities safe, caring and inclusive, staff, parents, students, and community members must report all risk-related behaviours to their school administrator.

**DUTY TO RESPOND** All threats must be taken seriously and responded to which includes an investigation and intervention plan. Our goal is to maintain a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment.

#### WHAT IS A RISK ASSESSMENT TEAM?

Each school has a Risk Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team may include principal, vice-principal, school counsellor, district resource counsellor, district staff and police.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A STUDENT RISK ASSESSMENT?** The purposes of a student risk assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents, and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the risk.
- To understand factors contributing to the student of concern's behaviour.

- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the student of concern.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

#### WHAT HAPPENS IN A STUDENT RISK ASSESSMENT?

All risk making behaviour by a student shall be reported to the principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, information is gathered from multiple sources including open-source digital publicly available data, possible locker searches and property searches. This may include interviews with the student(s), the student of concern's, parents, and staff to assess the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required. Threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action. Information shared throughout the risk assessment process will respect the student's right to privacy and the safety of all.

#### CAN I REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN A RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the student of concern or parent / guardian, the risk assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring learning environment.

**COLLECTION NOTICE** The school district is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws. The school district will not collect information as part of a risk assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

## SMOKE-FREE SCHOOLS: IT'S THE LAW

In the interest of the health of students, staff and all others who use or visit schools and school district facilities, and in accordance with B.C. law, ***it is illegal to use tobacco products, e-cigarettes (vapes) or marijuana on school property.***

The ban is in effect at all times, both during and outside of regular classroom hours, and all school district facilities are included. The law applies to everyone: students, staff, parents and the general public—including groups that rent school facilities outside of school hours.

District policies regarding marijuana (cannabis) are consistent with provincial and federal laws and similar in approach to tobacco or alcohol. Possession/use of marijuana and cannabis accessories is illegal for anyone under 19 years of age, and the products are prohibited in any form on school district property.

## FALSE FIRE ALARMS

- A false fire alarm is a criminal offence. Under section 437 of the Criminal Code of Canada, anyone who willfully, without reasonable cause, circulates or causes to be made an alarm of fire is guilty of an indictable offence.
- Anyone caught pulling a false alarm will be charged with public mischief and initiating a false fire alarm.
- A fine will be issued to the student and his/her family.
- A student caught pulling a false alarm will be suspended until they and their family meet with school and fire officials to fulfill any obligations associated with the false fire alarm.

Every time firefighters respond to a false fire alarm they are not available to help others in the city who may be experiencing a fire, emergency or those who are in need of medical assistance. Putting the lives of others in jeopardy is not acceptable. Students should use the fire alarm pull stations in schools only if they see a fire in the building.

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS

The Surrey School District participates in the BC government's Feeding Futures program, providing breakfast and lunch at 92 schools. This program receives foundational funding from the provincial and federal governments for staffing and core operations, with additional support from generous donations from businesses, organizations, and individuals covering food costs. This collaborative effort enables us to address the nutritional needs across our expansive student population.

Our meal offerings, both hot and cold, are carefully designed to meet complete nutrition guidelines, ensuring that they not only nourish but also bring comfort, joy, and a sense of value and recognition to our students.

A troubling statistic from Statistics Canada in November 2023 highlights that 17% of BC families experience hunger. With a student body of 83,000+ in our district, this translates to more than 14,000 students facing food insecurity. Addressing this, the district is dedicated to fulfilling the food needs of these students. However, with annual food and preparation costs reaching \$22 million to provide lunch for this number of students, additional support is crucial.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the program, please contact your school office or the Feeding Futures Department at [food@surreyschools.ca](mailto:food@surreyschools.ca) or 604-595-5300. Surrey Schools is committed to ensuring all students have access to meals and snacks.



### PLEASE DONATE

To make a donation to the School Meal Program, please contact the district's Advancement Department at 604-595-6066 or [donations@surreyschools.ca](mailto:donations@surreyschools.ca)

## PARTNERS36 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Surrey Schools is pleased to offer a number of scholarship and bursary opportunities to its graduates through the Partners36 scholarship program. This program is made possible through the generous contributions of individuals, corporations and community service organizations that view scholarships as an investment in the future of our graduates. Surrey Schools is very grateful for their support.

Students attending a secondary school or learning centre in the district are eligible to apply. The application deadline for the Partners36 scholarship program is in mid-April of the current school year. Completed applications should be submitted to the scholarship contact in your school.

Application forms and details about the Partners36 scholarship program are available at [www.surreyschools.ca](http://www.surreyschools.ca) under the 'Students' tab, where you can also find information about numerous other scholarships.

### PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Grade 12 students completing secondary school may be eligible for scholarships and awards from the Ministry of Education and Child Care. These include the *BC Achievement Scholarship*, *District/Authority Scholarship*, *BC Excellence Scholarship* and *Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship*. Monies may be used to assist in tuition for attendance at designated post-secondary institutions.

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many other opportunities to access financial assistance for post-secondary education. Students should consult with school career counsellors for additional opportunities and information.



Information about provincial scholarships and awards is available on the Ministry of Education and Child Care website: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards).

## SURREY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Surrey Community College is operated by the Surrey School District, the largest school district in B.C., which employs Inclusive Education Support Workers, Applied Behaviour Analysis Support Workers and Building Service Workers regularly.

- ✓ Our graduates are working in their field of study
- ✓ Our tuition rates are comparable to other private post-secondary institutions
- ✓ Graduate career ready
- ✓ Arranged practicums
- ✓ Experienced instructors

**Learn more at [www.surreyschools.ca](http://www.surreyschools.ca) (under Programs > Adult Education)**

## WEATHER-RELATED CLOSURES, CLASS CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYED SCHOOL OPENINGS

In the event of inclement weather, we want to remind families, students and staff about where to find information and how we make decisions to cancel classes, delay school openings or alter bus service due to weather.

All schools in the Surrey School District will remain OPEN if at all possible, except under extreme circumstances.



### HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

The Surrey School District covers a large geographic area, so conditions at individual school sites may vary. A variety of factors are considered before a decision is made, including:

- Road, sidewalk, school and parking lot conditions;
- Issues such as power outages and other emergent matters.



### WHEN WILL I KNOW?

A decision to close or delay opening schools districtwide will be made by 7 a.m. *at the latest*, based on the best information available at that time.



### HOW WILL I BE INFORMED?

Except under extreme circumstances, no announcement will be made that schools are open. Only cancellations, closures or delayed school openings will be announced. We will communicate this information as soon as it's available through the district website, social media accounts and news outlets.



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