



South Shore

Regional Centre for Education



@SSRCENS



@SSRCE_NS



www.ssrce.ca

Welcome Back to School!

In SSRCE, our mission is to provide our students with a learning environment that engages and inspires them to reach their full potential.

School Calendar

SSRCE's 2024-2025 School Calendar can be found here: www.ssrce.ca/school-calendars

New Cell Phone Directive

Beginning this September, all public schools in NS will be implementing a new directive on cell phone use in schools to improve student well-being and achievement. You can find more info on the directive along with a Q&A [here](#).

School Supplies

If you require support with school supplies, schools will provide those materials. Parents/guardians are asked to reach out to their child's school, if required.

Registration

Student registration (pre-primary to grade 12) is ongoing throughout the school year. To register, parents/guardians can visit their neighbourhood school or register online at www.ssrce.ca/register.

Parent/Guardian Questions or Concerns?

- 1** Please start by speaking with your child's teacher.
- 2** Follow up with the school principal.
- 3** If more action is needed, contact the South Shore Regional Centre for Education at 902-543-2468/ toll-free 1-888-252-2217, and we'll put you in touch with the right person.

Contact Information

General Inquiries

☎ 902-543-2468

✉ receptionist@ssrce.ca

Transportation

☎ 902-541-8252

✉ busdispatch@ssrce.ca

Pre-Primary Program

☎ 902-521-7679 or 902-541-0110

✉ preprimary@ssrce.ca

School Closure/Weather

☎ 902-523-5368

✉ weather@ssrce.ca

Before and After Program

The Nova Scotia Before and After Program (BAP) is expanding this year. For more information on the program at your local school, please contact Geneviève Rhyno, SSRCE's Before and After School Program Facilitator at grhyno@ssrce.ca.

Communication

Families can expect regular communication from SSRCE and their child's school.

When there is new information to share, it will be emailed to parents/guardians using the address on file in PowerSchool. Some messages are also sent by text and opt-ins are required. If you haven't already done so and would like to sign up, text "Y" (from a number on file with a school) to 978338.

To update emails and/or addresses in PowerSchool, please contact your child's school directly.



Student Transportation

Transportation Policy

Nova Scotia's [School Transportation Policy](#) includes eligibility based on distance criteria. Families can check their transportation eligibility at: bus.ssrce.ca.

Using BusPlanner

On the [main page](#) of BusPlanner [website](#), parents can:

- Click on **School Information** to access information about schools, including address and phone numbers.
- Click on **Which School do I Attend?** to determine which schools you are eligible to attend based on your civic address.
- Click on **Can I Ride a Bus?** to determine whether you are eligible for bussing based on your civic address.
- Click on **Parent Portal** to log in to your account to gain confidential information about your student.

In the **Parent Portal**, parents will have access to the following items:

- **Add Student** (your student must already exist in the system).
- **My Students** to find information about your students such as:
 - *Transportation* – displays pickup and drop-off transportation.
 - *Information* – provides more detailed information about the student.
 - *Contacts* – displays student contact information.
 - *Map* – displays the location of the student and their stops.

Pre-Primary to Grade 2 Students

Parents/guardians (or designate) are responsible for:

- Accompanying Pre-Primary to Grade 2 students to the bus stop (and supervising until safely boarded), as well as greeting the child at the stop at the end of the day. If they are not at the stop to meet the child, the parent/guardian will be contacted and the child will be returned to the school for pick up.
- Buckling and unbuckling the seat belt for their child (if they are less than 40 pounds and under 4 and half years of age, and only if a seat belt is available). Bus drivers cannot leave their seats. At the school, staff will buckle and unbuckle, as needed.

Late Buses

Late bus notices are posted online [here](#), on SSRCE's Transportation [Facebook page](#), and texted to parents/guardians who have their cell number in the BusPlanner [Parent Portal](#).

To receive late bus texts, update your contact information in your Parent Portal account to include your current mobile phone number.

Here's how to add your phone number to your BusPlanner Parent Portal:

1. Log in to your Parent Portal account [here](#).
2. Navigate to "My Account" under the "Parent" drop-down menu at the top of the page
3. Select "Mobile Numbers"
4. Check the box "I want to receive text alerts"
5. Enter your current & preferred cell number(s)
6. Click "Update" to save your changes

Questions?



Contact Transportation:
902-541-8252

www.ssrce.ca/transportation



Operational Updates

School Buildings

SSRCE's Operations department spends each summer making sure all schools are ready to welcome students and staff in September.

- 23 schools are thoroughly cleaned.
- Regular inspections on all of our sprinkler systems, fire panels and safety systems are completed.
- Ventilation systems are inspected and serviced.

Summer Capital Projects

In addition to our ongoing maintenance, the following projects were completed during the summer months of 2024:

- **New Ross Community School** – a new oil tank was installed over the summer.
- **North Queens Community School** – the sprinkler system in the original half of the building was completely replaced.
- **Chester Area Middle School** – The entire roof is currently being replaced and work will continue into the school year.
- **Hebville Academy (Elementary)** – Work is ongoing to replace the entire plumbing system and create new single stall bathrooms.
- **Liverpool Regional High School** – Work is ongoing to install a new synthetic turf and track with lights.

Attendance Info

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!

It's never too early to start building the habit of good attendance. Half of students who miss 2-4 days in September will go on to miss nearly a month of school this year.

Missing two days a month means missing 20 days a year! By grade 12 this means an entire year of school has been missed.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Only 17% of students considered chronically absent (missing 2 days a month) in Primary and grade one are reading proficiently in the grade three, compared to 64% of those students with good attendance.
- By grade six, chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.

What can you do:

- Establish regular open communication and dialogue with your child's teacher(s) if they have attendance challenges.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Get clothes and backpacks ready the night before.
- Only let your child stay home if they are truly sick.
- Make school attendance a priority; avoid appointments (if possible) during school hours.
- If your child is feeling anxious about going to school, reach out to their teacher, counsellor or administrator.