



Back to School Information

2025-26

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 2025-2026 School Calendar can be found here: www.ssrce.ca/school-calendars

School Lunch Program Expansion

This fall, the lunch program will expand to all middle and junior high schools, as well as continuing in elementary schools across the province.

Based on feedback from school communities, the program will be introducing:

- New kid-approved menu options
- Sustainable packing
- A more seamless ordering experience

More details will be shared before the start of the school year. Information is also available at NSlunch.ca.

Operations Update

Over the summer, our operations team is busy preparing for the return of students in September.

In addition to ongoing maintenance, the following projects were completed during the summer months of 2025:

- Bridgewater Elementary – A new roof was installed.
- Hebbville Academy – A new roof was installed.
- Pentz Elementary School – A major paving job was done to repave the parking lot and bus area.
- Various schools - A number of schools were upgraded to LED lights.
- Liverpool Regional High School – Work has been finished to install a new synthetic turf and track with lights.

Delayed Start Info & Family of School Closures

As we shared with families last winter, we have implemented new options for school closures.

Closure by Family of Schools: Closures may be all SSRCE schools or they may be done by family of schools (considering the varying weather conditions across different areas).

Your family of school is based on which high school the elementary and middle school feed into. You can view the full list [here](#).

Delayed Start: We also have a delayed start option. This process will be used when a storm has ended and roads are in the process of being cleared. A delayed start means that buses and classes would start exactly two hours later than usual. For example, if your child typically gets the bus at 7 a.m. and there is a delayed start, they would then get their bus at 9 a.m. Schools may adjust their daily schedule, however all schools will have their lunch time and the day will always end at the regular time.

If you will require a different bus stop for your child on a delayed start, please contact busdispatch@ssrce.ca.

Safe School Strategy

In April 2025, the Province released an updated Code of Conduct Policy and Safe School Strategy for all Nova Scotia schools. To learn more, visit: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/school-safety>.

Student 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.



Communication & Concerns

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

We have an updated parent/guardian protocol to help you reach the correct person when you have a concern. Please follow the steps below.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERN PROTOCOL

What to Expect From the SSRCE Concern Resolution Protocol Process

Your concern matters to us and you can expect problems to be resolved in a collaborative conversation rather than via emails.

School Supervisor

- Follow up phone call to gather critical information.

Director of Programs and Student Services:

- a collaborative in-person meeting.
- A summary of meeting minutes will be taken.
- Audio/video recording will not be permitted by any party.

Parent/Guardian
(of Pre-primary to Grade 12 child/student) has a concern.

The first point of contact is **your child's ECE* or teacher**
*Early Childhood Educator

If your concern is not resolved, contact **the school principal**

If your concern is not resolved, contact **the South Shore Regional Centre for Education** at 902-543-2468 who will:
provide information,
direct access to SSRCE supports; and/or
refer your concern to the School Supervisor.

School Supervisor
who will work with you to find a solution.

If your concern remains unresolved, you can **initiate a formal process** by contacting

Director of Programs and Student Services
who will investigate the concern.

If your concern remains unresolved, contact the **Regional Executive Director of Education** who will make a final decision.



SSRCE Supports Include:

- RCH Team
 - Coordinator of Mi'kmaw Education Services
 - Coordinator of African Canadian Education
 - Equity Consultant
- Programs Coordinators
- Student Services Coordinator/Staff

Please do not contact the Regional Executive Director until all other steps have been followed



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