

## School Year Information for Families

This is a list of where to find important information on [ddsbc.ca](https://www.ddsbc.ca), helpful resources, and general tips to prepare you for the school year.

## School Year Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Our [School Year Information](#) webpage is updated prior to the start of every school year and includes information on what the school day looks like, health and safety in schools, and frequently asked questions.

## How to Use Google Translate on the DDSB Website

The DDSB website can easily be translated into many different languages through Google Translate. You will find the **Select Language** feature on every DDSB webpage in the banner at the top of the page next to the magnifying glass icon or search feature.

1. Go to [ddsbc.ca](https://www.ddsbc.ca) on a computer or laptop device.
2. Click on the **Select Language** button in the banner at the top of the webpage.
3. Choose your preferred language from the list.



## Subscribe to Receive News from Your Child's School

Here are the steps required for families to receive news such as school newsletters directly from your child's school:

1. On any school's homepage click **More News** in the **School News** section.

2. Click the **Subscribe** button.

3. Check off all the boxes for what you would like to subscribe to on the school website. If you only want the School News (Newsletters), just check **School News**.

Once completed, the school website will send an email to all subscribers when News items have been posted. For further assistance, please reach out to staff at your school.

### School Year Calendars

You can view the school year calendars for elementary regular, elementary modified, secondary regular, and secondary modified programs as well as a summary of scheduled statutory holidays and P.A. days on the [DDSB website](#).

## Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is available to all Durham District School Board parents and guardians. Through the portal you can view your child's homeroom assignment, attendance history, and grades. You can also set up SchoolCash Online and SchoolMessenger accounts through the portal. For more information and to view frequently asked questions, visit the [Parent Portal webpage](#).

## Report an Absence

Durham District School Board uses the online SchoolMessenger service for reporting student absences. You can report your child's absence by:

- Calling 1-844-350-2646
- Online or on your smartphone through the [SchoolMessenger app](#)

If you do not have a SchoolMessenger account and would like to create one, follow the steps below:

1. Go to the [SchoolMessenger website](#).
2. Use the same email address we have on record for you (same as the email address you used for your Parent Portal account.)
3. Create a password.
4. Check your email and verify your account.

Do not share your login information with your children and keep your information protected. If you have more than one child enrolled through the app, use the options menu to select which child. This menu is at the top of the screen (top left for the mobile app). If you do not want to create an online account, you can continue to call 1-844-350-2646 to report your child's absence.

## SchoolCash Online

SchoolCash Online is the system used by the DDSB for managing the funds collected at all schools for extra-curricular activities. It is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. Parents/guardians can register for an account through the SchoolCash [User Registration webpage](#). Once an account is set up, SchoolCash can be accessed through the Parent Portal. For help with login instructions, payments, email notifications, or security processes please visit the [SchoolCash Online Help Desk](#) or call 1-866-961-1803.

## Digital Learning and Device Support

Students in Grades 7-12 with Chromebooks and those learning through DDSB@Home can access support through our [Digital Learning and Device Support webpage](#). This

page includes information on troubleshooting, frequently asked questions, online safety, and how to care for your Chromebook device.

## Mental Health and Well-Being Resources

Students are encouraged to reach out to someone at their school if they are struggling with anxiety, depression, or any other mental health issue. A guidance counsellor or teacher can help. In addition, the DDSB website offers well-being resources for students, parents/guardians, and staff on the [Well-Being and Mental Health webpage](#).

We also have a team of professionals available to assist which include social workers, psychologists, and psychological associates, along with mental health and addiction nurses and community-based mental health workers. If you are interested in talking to a mental health worker, please use the [Mental Health Support Form](#) to provide us with your contact information and a member of the team will be in touch as soon as possible. **Please Note: This is not a crisis service. If it is an emergency, please call 911.**

## Kindergarten Registration

Durham District School Board (DDSB) requires [online registration](#) for all new students entering Kindergarten. We are here to help you and your child find a school and transition into Kindergarten.

Your child must meet the following age requirements to enter Kindergarten:

- To register for Junior Kindergarten, your child must be 4 years old by December 31 in the current year.
- To register for Senior Kindergarten, your child must be 5 years old by December 31 in the current year.

To register a child in Kindergarten:

1. Use the [school locator tool](#) to find schools designated as the home school in your area.
2. Create a [parent account](#) or log in to your existing account.
3. Once your parent account has been created, please be sure to select the correct school year.

All students must register at their 'designated home school' for the Kindergarten program. If you are having difficulty finding your designated home school using the school locator tool or have questions about school boundaries, contact our Property and Planning Department via e-mail at [Planning.Department@ddsb.ca](mailto:Planning.Department@ddsb.ca) or by phone at 905-666-6421.

Families interested in our French Immersion (FI) program can transfer their child to the closest single track French Immersion school **in the spring prior to them entering Grade One.**

All online registrations are requests, not finalized registrations. School administrators will set up appointments with families/caregivers to visit the school to complete the registration process and will be asked to bring the appropriate documentation to finalize their child's registration.

If you need assistance registering for Kindergarten during the school year, please contact the office at your designated home school. Contact information for schools is listed in the [school directory](#). If you require assistance during the months of July and August, you can reach the Early Years Department by email at [EarlyYears@ddsb.ca](mailto:EarlyYears@ddsb.ca) or by phone at 905-666-5500 ext. 5440.

## **Transportation**

Durham District School Board (DDSB) provides transportation to eligible students in partnership with Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS). For more information and to confirm eligibility for transportation please visit <https://www.dsts.on.ca/>.