



SCHOOL START-UP VIRTUAL INFORMATION SHARING SESSIONS FOR FIRST NATION SCHOOLS

Professional development is key to the ongoing improvement and success of First Nation schools. With that in mind, the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and First Nations Schools Association (FNSEA) are offering a number of information sharing workshops designed specifically for First Nation school staff in British Columbia.

The sessions are being offered through Zoom videoconferencing to make them widely accessible. We welcome your participation and feedback. Please register for the sessions you would like to attend by clicking registration links provided in the workshop descriptions. After your registration has been approved, you will receive a calendar invite for the workshop, which will include the Zoom link.

Please note that for those workshops below with multiple sessions (e.g. DRUMS Updates), you need only attend one of these sessions; they are the same presentation held on different dates and times for your scheduling convenience. The Audience column will assist in identifying the sessions that are most relevant to your professional role.

For questions or registration assistance, please contact firstnationschoolevents@fnesc.ca



MAY - OCTOBER 2026

SCHOOL START-UP VIRTUAL INFORMATION SHARING SESSIONS MAY - OCTOBER 2026

DATE	TIME	WORKSHOP	SUGGESTED AUDIENCE
MAY 7	3:30-4:30pm	<u>DRUMS for Principals - Important Decisions to Start the Year</u>	Principals
AUG 19	10-11am	<u>DRUMS for Principals - Important Decisions to Start the Year</u>	Principals
AUG 25	10-11am	<u>Year Planning for Success - K-12</u>	Teachers EAs
	1-3pm	<u>K4 Year Planning for Success</u>	K4-Educators
AUG 26	9-11am	<u>Unit Planning for Success - K-12</u>	Teachers EAs
	3-4pm	<u>Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program (SSEP) Annual Information Sharing</u>	Principals LATs
	3:30-4:30pm	<u>Report Card Planning for New Principals</u>	Principals
AUG 27	9-10am	<u>Assessments and Interventions for Students with Suspected Exceptionalities</u>	LATs
	9-11am	<u>Lesson Planning for Success - K-12</u>	Teachers EAs
	1-2pm	<u>Options for Students to Earn Graduation Credits</u>	Principals Teachers Guidance Counsellors
	2-4pm	<u>The Important Role of EAs</u>	Education Assistants
AUG 28	10am -12pm	<u>EA Supports & Materials – How Principals Can Use Them</u>	Principals
	1-2pm	<u>Criminal Record Checks: What You Need to Know!</u>	Principals Education Coordinators
	1-2pm	<u>Student Record Keeping for Grades K to 8</u>	Principals Admin. Assistants
SEP 1	1:30-2:30pm	<u>Supporting Graduation: Grad Planning and Tracking</u>	Principals Guidance Counsellors Admin. Assistants
SEP 2	2-4pm	<u>First Nation Languages and Culture Program Annual Information Sharing</u>	Principals Language Teachers
SEP 3	3:30-4:30pm	<u>Working with SLPs and OTs</u>	Principals LATs
SEP 8	3:30-5pm	<u>Retaining Great Teachers - Year 1</u>	Principals/School Leaders
SEP 9	11am-12pm	<u>Nominal Roll Adult Education Funding</u>	Adult Educators
SEP 10	2:30-3:30pm	<u>Nominal Roll, 1701s, and Reciprocal Tuition</u>	Principals Education Coordinators ISC Representatives
	3:30-4:30pm	<u>Supporting Graduation: Grad Planning and Tracking</u>	Principals Guidance Counsellors Admin. Assistants
SEP 11	1-2pm	<u>BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) Funding Handbook and Estimator Tool</u>	Principals Education Coordinators
SEP 15	2-3pm	<u>Traditional IEP Overview</u>	LATs Principals
	3:30-4:30pm	<u>SSEP School Grants for K-12 Programs</u>	Principals LATs
SEP 16	1-2pm	<u>Supports for First Nation Adult Secondary Education</u>	Adult Educators
SEP 17	2-4pm	<u>First Nation Languages and Culture Program Annual Information Sharing</u>	Principals Language Teachers
SEP 22	3:30-4:30pm	<u>SSEP School Grants for Adult Education Secondary Education Programs</u>	Principals LATs
	3:30-4:30pm	<u>Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program (SSEP) Annual Information Sharing</u>	Principals LATs
	3:30-4:30pm	<u>Options for Students to Earn Graduation Credits</u>	Principals Teachers Guidance Counsellors
	3:30-5pm	<u>Retaining Great Teachers - Beyond Year 1</u>	Principals/School Leaders
SEP 23	9-10am	<u>Traditional IEP Overview</u>	LATs Principals
	3:30-4:30pm	<u>Report Card Planning for New Principals</u>	Principals
SEP 24	2-3pm	<u>Competency-Based IEP Overview</u>	LATs Principals
	3-4pm	<u>DRUMS for Principals - Important Decisions to Start the Year</u>	Principals

For questions or registration assistance, please contact firstnationschoolevents@fnesc.ca

SCHOOL START-UP VIRTUAL INFORMATION SHARING SESSIONS **MAY - OCTOBER 2026**

DATE	TIME	WORKSHOP	SUGGESTED AUDIENCE
SEP 25	9-10am	Competency-Based IEP Overview	LATs Principals
	3:30-4:30pm	Student Record Keeping for Grades K to 8	Principals Admin. Assistants
SEP 29	3:30-4:30pm	DRUMS Standards-Based Report Cards	Principals Teachers Admin Assistants
OCT 5	3:30-4:30pm	Report Card Handbook- An Overview of a New Resource to Support Student Progress Reporting	Principals Teachers
OCT 6	3:30-4:30pm	SSEP Additional Funding Grants	Principals LATs
	3:30-4:30pm	Guiding Your Education Journey for Families - Facilitator's Guide	Principals Guidance Counsellors Teachers
OCT 7	3:30-4:30pm	DRUMS Standards-Based Report Cards	Principals Teachers Admin Assistants
OCT 13	3:30-4:30pm	Writing Report Card Comments	Principals Teachers

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Assessments and Interventions for Students with Suspected Exceptionalities

LATS

This session will provide First Nation schools with information about when a student may need a formal assessment (e.g., Ed Psych, SLP/OT, Level B): how to determine if a student requires formal assessment; what kind of assessment may be needed; how formal assessments can support student learning; and other supports and interventions that are available while awaiting an assessment.

Liz McLean, Specialist, Complex Exceptionalities, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program
Sara Argueta, Occupational Therapist, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program

Aug 27 9-10am

[REGISTER](#)

Competency-Based IEP Overview

LATS | PRINCIPALS

This session is intended for Learning Assistance Teachers (LATs) and principals who are interested in learning more about competency-based (CB) Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The workshop will guide participants through the basics of profile development, universal essential supports, core and curricular competency-based goals and objectives, and progress monitoring.

Kyla Blair, Senior Manager, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program

Sep 24 2-3pm

[REGISTER](#)

Sep 25 9-10am

[REGISTER](#)

SSEP School Grants for Adult Education Secondary Education Programs

PRINCIPALS | LATS

This session is intended to specifically support First Nation Adult Secondary Education Centres and schools that enroll adult students, providing an overview of how to complete workplans on the SSEP portal. Sample budgets and examples of eligible activities will be shared. SSEP staff can answer questions about which students are eligible to access activities funded through various SSEP grants. An optional SSEP Portal walkthrough will be provided at the end of the session.

Kyla Blair, Senior Manager, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program

Sep 22 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

SSEP School Grants for K-12 Programs

PRINCIPALS | LATS

This session will provide an overview of how to complete workplans on the SSEP portal; sample budgets and examples of eligible activities will be shared. SSEP staff can answer questions about which students are eligible to access activities funded through various SSEP grants. An optional SSEP Portal walkthrough will be provided at the end of the session.

Kyla Blair, Senior Manager, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program

Sep 15 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

SSEP Additional Funding Grants

PRINCIPALS | LATS

In this session, we will share information regarding the application process for Additional Funding Grants (AFG) including a review of the Guide to Exceptionality Categories and documentation required for successful applications. There will be a quick review of AFG grant workplans. This session is targeted toward new LATs or school staff wishing for a refresher on the Additional Funding Grant application process.

Nancy Fulton, Specialist Neurodiversity, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program
Juliana Choi, SLP, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program

October 6 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program (SSEP) Annual Information Sharing

PRINCIPALS | LATS

These sessions are intended to specifically support First Nation schools who are supporting students with exceptionalities. They will provide an overview of SSEP School Grants, SLP/OT Grants, and Additional Funding Grants. They will also cover how to complete workplans on the SSEP portal and will review sample budgets. SSEP staff can answer questions about which students are eligible to access activities funded through SSEP grants and how to show that they meet eligibility requirements.

Kyla Blair, Senior Manager, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program
Sarah Wex, Interim Director, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program

Aug 26 3-4pm

[REGISTER](#)

Sept 22 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

Traditional IEP Overview

LATS | PRINCIPALS

This session is intended for Learning Assistance Teachers (LATs) and principals who are interested in learning more about the traditional Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. This session will provide an overview of traditional SMART goal IEPs. The workshop will guide participants through the basics of profile development, universal and essential supports, SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-oriented, Time-bound) goals, and progress reviews.

Kyla Blair, Senior Manager, Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program

Sep 15 2-3pm

[REGISTER](#)

Sep 23 9-10am

[REGISTER](#)

Working with SLPs and OTs

PRINCIPALS | LATS

Kick your relationship with your SLP or OT into high gear! SLP and OT approaches can vary widely, making relationships confusing to navigate. In this session, we will answer various questions such as: What can I ask for from my therapist? What approaches are out there and what should I do if I want to try something different? How should I bring up feedback? We'll also cover the basics of working with an SLP/OT, such as the referral and assessment process, and how to access and connect with FNEC OTs and SLPs. You can leave this session with confidence to work meaningfully with OTs and SLPs.

Sarah Wex, Interim Director,
Supports for Students with Exceptionalities Program

Sep 3 3:30-4:30pm [REGISTER](#)

First Nation Languages and Culture Program Annual Information Sharing

PRINCIPALS | LANGUAGE TEACHERS

We invite you to join us to learn about the First Nation Language and Culture Program (FNLCP) for First Nation schools. These sessions will include discussions on updates to the FNLCP policy and implementation guide, grant workplans and budget requirements, reporting, new resources, the First Nation Language Teacher Mentor Apprenticeship Program (FNLTMAP), supporting planning for language teachers and language and culture coaching support.

Clayton Grice, Director, First Nations Languages and Culture

Sep 2 2-4pm [REGISTER](#)
Sep 17 2-4pm [REGISTER](#)

Supports for First Nation Adult Secondary Education

ADULT EDUCATORS

Are you new to running an adult education center, or would you like to learn more about how to support adult students in your school? Please join us for an overview of the resources available for First Nation schools and adult education centres that enrol adult students.

Lauranne Hutton, Director, Secondary Graduation and Adult Education

Sep 16 1-2pm [REGISTER](#)

DRUMS for Principals - Important Decisions to Start the Year

PRINCIPALS

Important decisions made by the principal at the beginning of the school year will ensure that DRUMS-based Report Cards are set up for success. How will you structure your terms? What courses are you offering? Will you use Standards-Based Report Cards? Making these decisions early and making a plan to communicate them to educators will contribute to a smooth report card process and quality report cards.

Joe McHale, Senior Manager, Graduation Programs

May 7 3:30-4:30pm [REGISTER](#)
Aug 19 10-11am [REGISTER](#)
Sep 24 3-4pm [REGISTER](#)

Guiding Your Education Journey for Families - Facilitator's Guide

PRINCIPALS | GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS | TEACHERS

Join us to review a publication and facilitator's guide for using: *Guiding Your Education Journey: A Handbook for First Nations Families*. This Guide is designed to help you share information with families so they are able to make the best decisions possible about what courses to take-especially in Grades 10, 11, and 12. It can also help with planning for post-secondary education and future careers.

Joe McHale, Senior Manager, Graduation Programs

Oct 6 3:30-4:30pm [REGISTER](#)

Options for Students to Earn Graduation Credits

PRINCIPALS | TEACHERS | GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

We are excited to share a resource for schools that offer grades 10 - 12 and adult secondary education programs: *Options for Students to Earn Graduation Credits: A Guide for First Nation Schools in BC*. This resource outlines course options that Non-Independent First Nation schools can offer that will allow students in grades 10-12, including adult students, to earn credit towards graduation.

Joe McHale, Senior Manager, Graduation Programs

Aug 27 1-2pm [REGISTER](#)
Sep 22 3:30-4:30pm [REGISTER](#)

Supporting Graduation: Grad Planning and Tracking

PRINCIPALS | GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS | ADMIN. ASSISTANTS

School-level processes can play a significant role in student graduation outcomes. This session will share how planning, tracking, communicating and record-keeping practices can improve graduation outcomes for your students.

Joe McHale, Senior Manager, Graduation Programs

Sep 1 1:30-2:30pm [REGISTER](#)
Sep 10 3:30-4:30pm [REGISTER](#)

Report Card Planning for New Principals

PRINCIPALS

The school's report card strategy should be determined early in the school year. This presentation is designed for new principals, but it may also be useful for any principal who is considering their school's report card strategy. At the end of this presentation, a school principal will have a good understanding of key considerations for a school's report card strategy.

Joe McHale, Senior Manager, Graduation Programs

Aug 26 3:30-4:30pm [REGISTER](#)
Sep 23 3:30-4:30pm [REGISTER](#)

DRUMS Standards-Based Report Cards

PRINCIPALS | TEACHERS | ADMIN ASSISTANTS

Join us to discover the various features of the DRUMS Standards-Based Report Cards and learn how you can customize the features to meet the needs of your school.

Joe McHale, Senior Manager, Graduation Programs

Sep 29 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

Oct 7 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

Report Card Handbook- An Overview of a New Resource to Support Student Progress Reporting

PRINCIPALS | TEACHERS

This session will provide an overview of a Student Progress Reporting Handbook for First Nation Schools, which provides information for teachers and school leaders related to communicating student progress, including some helpful information about planning for and writing report cards and standards-based reporting.

Rebecca Burrows, Senior Manager, First Nation School Programs

Joe McHale, Senior Manager, Secondary Graduation

Oct 5 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

Writing Report Card Comments

PRINCIPALS | TEACHERS

In this session we will discuss some best practices related to writing report card comments and review a framework for how to structure report card comments.

Rebecca Burrows, Senior Manager, First Nation School Programs

Joe McHale, Senior Manager, Secondary Graduation

Oct 13 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

EA Supports & Materials - How Principals Can Use Them

PRINCIPALS

Education Assistants (EAs) fulfill a key role in helping students succeed and they are an integral part of school life. This workshop will highlight possible activities to assist EAs in developing their critical skills and understandings, highlighting how principals can help make the most of EAs' contributions. The workshop will also highlight a new Workbook designed to help EAs reflect on their roles and responsibilities and plan for continued professional development.

Karen Linkert, Director, Instructional Services

Aug 28 10am-12pm

[REGISTER](#)

Student Record Keeping for Grades K to 8

PRINCIPALS | ADMIN. ASSISTANTS

Managing and maintaining Student Records is important. This workshop will review the Student Record Keeping Handbook for First Nation Schools in BC. The content will support principals and administrative assistants with establishing and maintaining effective student record keeping practices - focusing on elementary and middle school levels.

Bryce Ross, Regional Principal, Instructional Services

Keri Blacker, Regional Principal, Instructional Services

Aug 28 1-2pm

[REGISTER](#)

Sep 25 3:30-4:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

The Important Role of EAs

EDUCATION ASSISTANTS

EAs play a key role in ensuring that students are successful and helping schools meet their missions by assisting students to learn, grow, and reach their full potential. The job of an EA can be complicated, and effective EAs are enthusiastic learners, welcoming opportunities to understand their strengths and areas for improvement. This workshop will foster discussions about the complex responsibilities of EAs and a range of resources that have been created to help.

Karen Linkert, Director, Instructional Services

Aug 27 2-4pm

[REGISTER](#)

Retaining Great Teachers - Year 1

PRINCIPALS/SCHOOL LEADERS

Retention is all about engaging your teachers from day one. There is no one who has more impact on the retention of employees than their direct manager, so what you do matters! This session will give you strategies that are easy to implement and maintain, and will help you build highly engaged teachers, right from the start.

Miguel Garcia, Manager, Human Resources

Rob O'Hearn, Senior Coordinator, Human Resources

Sep 8 3:30-5pm

[REGISTER](#)

Retaining Great Teachers - Beyond Year 1

PRINCIPALS/SCHOOL LEADERS

Finding a teacher who is a great fit for the school and community is really important, but retaining that great teacher is essential. Once you have employed a teacher, you have to begin thinking about what you can do to retain them and keep them engaged. This session will give you more, longer-term but still easy to implement strategies to build highly engaged teams for the long term.

Miguel Garcia, Manager, Human Resources

Rob O'Hearn, Senior Coordinator, Human Resources

Sep 22 3:30-5pm

[REGISTER](#)

K4 Year Planning for Success

K4-EDUCATORS

Join us for an information session on unit and/or theme-based planning for K4 programs. Having theme plans ensures K4 teachers are introducing students to a variety of content and experiences, and are intentional in scope and sequence. This will be an interactive workshop with time to share and hear ideas from others.

Cindy Lee Mathews, Team Lead, Instructional Services
Rebecca Burrows, Senior Manager, First Nation School Programs

Aug 25 1-3pm

[REGISTER](#)

Year Planning for Success - K-12

TEACHERS | EAS

It's the beginning of another school year, and unpacking the curriculum to create a comprehensive year plan can be a daunting task. Whether you are new to teaching or want to pick up some fresh tips to hone your year-planning skills, join us as we navigate the BC curriculum and share some helpful strategies. We will guide you through the process as you create a year plan of your own.

Megan Burkholder, Instructional Coach, K-9

Aug 25 9-11am

[REGISTER](#)

Unit Planning for Success - K-12

TEACHERS | EAS

Now that you have a better understanding of the components of the BC Curriculum and have used them to create a basic year plan to get you started, it's time to plan your units in more detail! We will guide you through a simple unit planning structure and support you in creating one of your own.

Rebecca Burrows, Senior Manager, First Nation School Programs
Megan Burkholder, Instructional Coach, K-9

Aug 26 9-11am

[REGISTER](#)

Lesson Planning for Success - K-12

TEACHERS | EAS

Now that your year plan and unit plans are complete, it's time to focus on how you are going to deliver them! Effective lesson planning is integral to good instruction and the best way to ensure you are making the most out of the time you have with your students. In this session we will introduce a basic lesson planning structure and guide you through creating your first lesson plan.

Rebecca Burrows, Senior Manager, First Nation School Programs

Aug 27 9-11am

[REGISTER](#)

BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) Funding Handbook and Estimator Tool

PRINCIPALS | EDUCATION COORDINATORS

The BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) Funding Handbook explains Indigenous Services Canada's BCTEA Funding Detail Budget Report Table, which is sent to BCTEA-funded First Nations each year. This table shows the components of the BCTEA funding calculations for First Nation schools in BC. This session will provide detailed information about how First Nation schools are funded and the variables that affect funding levels.

Jan Haugen, Director, Executive Services & Community Support
AJ Orena, Senior Manager, Data Analysis

Sep 11 1-2pm

[REGISTER](#)

Nominal Roll, 1701s, and Reciprocal Tuition

PRINCIPALS | EDUCATION COORDINATORS | ISC REPRESENTATIVES

In this workshop, ISC will provide an overview of the Nominal Roll instructions, and there will be opportunities for questions about how to include eligible students on the Nominal Roll. FNEESC staff will also briefly describe the purpose of the 1701 Student Data Collection Form, as well as the reciprocal tuition process, which allows First Nation to access funding for students who are ordinarily resident off-reserve.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Jan Haugen, Director, Executive Services & Community Support
Barbara Kavanagh, Research Advisor

Sep 10 2:30-3:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

Criminal Record Checks: What You Need to Know!

PRINCIPALS | EDUCATION COORDINATORS

This session will review when First Nation schools should obtain criminal records checks, how to implement them, and what to do with the information received. It will also review how to update criminal record checks for existing employees, and the contractual terms First Nation schools will want to include in employment contracts and personnel policies to address these issues.

Keith Mitchell, Harris and Company

Aug 28 1-2pm

[REGISTER](#)

Nominal Roll Adult Education Funding

ADULT EDUCATORS

This session is for First Nation schools and adult education centres that enroll adult students. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) staff will provide an overview of how to access ISC funding for non-graduated and graduated adults and how to complete the Nominal Roll for adult students.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Sep 9 11am-12pm

[REGISTER](#)
