

K-12 Education and Child Care: Emergency Management Key Contacts 2026

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Education Programs and Policy Division, Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC)

- First point of contact between public and independent schools, districts, authorities and the Ministry
- Supports include coordinating information, identification of appropriate Ministry contact(s), and facilitating connections with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, Regional Health Authorities, etc.

FIRST CONTACT: StudentSafety@gov.bc.ca

ONGOING: erase@gov.bc.ca or EDUC.IndependentSchoolsOffice@gov.bc.ca

Education Finance, ECC

- K-12 funding and reporting supports

CONTACT: **Caroline Ponsford**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION FINANCE

Caroline.Ponsford@gov.bc.ca

Child Care Programs & Policy Division, ECC

- Support for child care providers during emergencies

CONTACTS: CCOF@gov.bc.ca

10aDayCentres@gov.bc.ca

\$10-a-day and Operating Funding Model sites

BY PHONE: For program-specific questions, contact ECC at 1-888-338-6622 (toll free).

Specialized Education Programs, ECC

- Supports transitions to remote or online learning when in-person learning is disrupted due to emergencies

CONTACT: EDUC.OnlineLearning@gov.bc.ca

Connected Services BC

(previously Online Learning and Educational Resources Branch, ECC)

- Network, cell service and cybersecurity support

CONTACT: **Christopher Carmack**

DIRECTOR, MODERNIZATION
& TRANSFORMATION

Christopher.Carmack@gov.bc.ca

CONTACT: **Cathleen Freshwater**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION SECTOR
NETWORKS & DIGITAL WORKPLACE

Cathleen.Freshwater@gov.bc.ca

Education and Child Care Capital Branch, Ministry of Infrastructure

(previously the ECC Capital Management Branch)

- Infrastructure, facility, property and education continuity supports including insurance claims, staffing and capital (including BC School Protection Program)

CONTACT: **Damien Crowell**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Damien.Crowell@gov.bc.ca

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA)

Helps to inform planning by offering district- and school-specific considerations for learning continuity, staffing and working with community providers.

CONTACT: **Mark Pearmain**

SUPERINTENDENT, SD 36 SURREY
PRESIDENT, BCSSA

Pearmain_m@surreyschools.ca

BC Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO)

Helps to inform planning for business and payroll continuity, as well as for communications, technology, finance and regional coordination.

CONTACT: **Alan Rice**

SECRETARY TREASURER, SD 06 ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
PRESIDENT, BCASBO

Alan.Rice@sd6.bc.ca

Federation of Independent School Associations in British Columbia (FISA BC)

Helps to inform planning by offering independent school-specific considerations for learning continuity, staffing, and working with community providers.

CONTACT: **Shawn Chisholm**

PRESIDENT, FISABC

Shawn@fisabc.ca

