



2026-27 Back to School Package – Independent Schools
B.C.’s Welcoming Schools and Safety
Week 1 – September 3, 2026

This package is the first of a three-week back-to-school resource series. The resources shared throughout this series are intended to support districts and schools in fostering environments where all students feel safe, connected, and welcome.

This week’s package marks the launch of **B.C.’s Welcoming Schools**. It also highlights new resources, reminders, and updates related to **School and Online Safety**, a pillar under [erase](#).

Intended audiences are clearly noted and we recommend this week’s package is shared specifically with Safe School Coordinators, safety team members, and health and safety leads. Please share these materials as appropriate. For additional information, please contact erase@gov.bc.ca.

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1. B.C.'s Welcoming Schools – **NEW**

Intended Audience: Inclusive Education Leads, Mental Health Leads, Safe School Coordinators, Principals and Vice-Principals, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Leads, Parents/Caregivers

- Launching this school year, B.C.'s Welcoming Schools is focused on fostering learning environments where all students feel safe, welcome, connected, and supported, and can focus on learning.
- A new landing page brings together existing resources and provides updated policy, guidance, and tools for schools, districts and families to support learning, promotion, prevention, and response efforts across a range of topic areas.
- Additional information and resources will be shared on the [B.C.'s Welcoming Schools webpage](#) throughout the 2026-27 school year.

2. Duty to Report – **Reminder**

Intended Audience: Safe School Coordinators, Principals and Vice-Principals

- **All school staff have a duty to report** concerns about suspected child abuse or neglect under the [Child, Family and Community Service Act](#). If a child or youth may be at risk, staff do not need to be certain that abuse or neglect has occurred before making a report. Concerns should be reported as soon as possible to a child welfare worker at **1-800-663-9122**.
- For information on reporting responsibilities, signs of abuse and neglect, and what to report, please refer to the [B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect](#) and the Province's [Reporting Child Abuse in B.C. webpage](#).

3. **erase** Training – **Registration Open**

Intended Audience: Safe School Coordinators, Principals and Vice-Principals, Parents/Caregivers

- In partnership with Safer Schools Together (SST), the ministry offers training at no cost to school and district safety team members as well as students and families. Training sessions are offered in-person and online and are focused on supporting school and online safety.
- The [2026-27 erase training schedule](#) is now available, with student, family and Digital Threat Assessment sessions open for registration through December 2026. Additional training sessions will be added throughout the school year.
- A reminder that independent school Safe School Coordinators can register for all *erase* training sessions, including in person sessions hosted by school districts. In addition, there will be virtual *erase* training sessions scheduled for independent



school Safe School Coordinators. More information on dates and registration will follow soon via the Deputy Minister's Bulletin for Independent Schools.

4. Fall Social Media Safety Campaign – **NEW**

Intended Audience: Safe School Coordinators, Directors of Instruction, Principals and Vice-Principals, Families/Caregivers

- The Province is leading an online social media campaign this fall focused on digital safety and consent.
- Intended for youth aged 10-15 and their parents, caregivers, and trusted adults, the campaign is designed to raise awareness about safe online behaviours and encourage help-seeking and reporting when online harms occur.
- The campaign will begin in late September, with campaign materials to be shared in the coming weeks. **Districts and schools are encouraged to share campaign messages and materials with appropriate members of their school communities to promote awareness.**

5. Intimate Images Protection Act – **Reminder**

Intended Audience: Safe School Coordinators, Mental Health Leads, Principals and Vice-Principals

- The [Intimate Images Protection Act](#) makes the non-consensual sharing of intimate images illegal. Individuals who have experienced, or are threatened with, the sharing of intimate images can access free supports through the [Intimate Images Protection Service](#). Additional information is available on [erase Online Safety](#).
- **Districts and schools are encouraged to share information with their school community to ensure awareness of the legislation and available supports.**

6. Online Privacy Considerations for Districts and Schools – **Reminder**

Intended Audience: Safe School Coordinators, Directors of Human Resources, Principals and Vice-Principals

- District and school staff are encouraged to regularly review their online presence and privacy settings on social media and other online accounts to help ensure personal information is appropriately protected.
- Consider reviewing privacy and security settings on commonly used platforms such as Facebook or Instagram to help manage personal information, account visibility, and other permissions.



7. Safe School Coordinator Meeting – **Registration Open**

Intended Audience: Safe School Coordinators, Safety Team Members, Health and Safety Leads

- We are pleased to announce the 2026 Safe School Coordinator Meeting will take place Wednesday October 21 & Thursday October 22 at the Surrey School District Resource and Education Centre. This is an excellent opportunity to build relationships with fellow school and district safety teams.
- 10 seats have been allocated to Independent School Safe School Coordinators. The Ministry is working with the Federation of Independent School Associations (FISA) to allocate 9 seats.
- Non-FISA member independent school Safe School Coordinators interested in attending the meeting are invited to put their name into a lottery for the remaining seat (1) by emailing the Independent Schools Team at EDUC.IndependentSchoolsOffice@gov.bc.ca by September 18. A waitlist will also be taken.
- Please note that travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the district, school or agency and will not be reimbursed by the ministry. Suggested accommodation options near the venue include:
 - [The Civic Hotel](#)
 - [Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel](#)
 - [Four Points by Sheraton](#)

8. Safety and Emergency Management Planning Guide for Schools, Districts and Authorities – **Updated**

Intended Audience: Safe School Coordinators, Health and Safety Leads, Principals and Vice-Principals

- An updated [Safety and Emergency Management Planning Guide for Schools, Districts and Authorities](#) is available through the ministry's [Emergency Management Planning for Schools, Districts and Authorities webpage](#).
- This updated Guide aligns with current provincial emergency management legislation and standardized approaches, incorporates inclusive safety planning considerations, and highlights collaboration with community partners and child care operators.