

# B.C. will delay start of school: Minister of Education<sup>[1]</sup>

School was set to begin on Sept. 8

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**Source:** Vancouver is Awesome

**Format:** Article

**Publication Date:** 11 Aug 2020

## AVAILABILITY

Access online<sup>[2]</sup>

## EXCERPTS

B.C. Minister of Education Rob Fleming said Tuesday that it's against health guidelines to allow students back into classes on Sept. 8 like other years, and an announcement will come in a few days on details of schools reopening.

School was set to begin on Sept. 8 but several groups, including the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association, asked for the start to be delayed.

"Previously students would come back into class, usually with their previous year's teachers, and wait a few days for school to be organized for the coming school year," Fleming said in the legislature. "We can't do that in a pandemic. That would not be in compliance with the BCCDC guidelines."

Darren Danyluk, president of the BCPVPA, said if students and staff all arrive on Sept. 8, they won't necessarily have been briefed in COVID-19-related safety protocols.

In Richmond, the Richmond District Parents Association (RDPA) said they've heard many families are concerned about sending their kids back on Sept. 8. in groups of 60 or 120 and many have told RDPA president Dionne McFie they'd like to see a hybrid model for learning as an option.

"From what I've heard, there's not a lot of support for going back," McFie told the Richmond News on Monday before the minister's announcement.

Fleming said the announcement coming in a few days will outline what Sept. 8 will be like for support staff, administration and teachers to make sure students are "organized into the classes where they will be with their peers in a unit that is designed to limit the student interactions."

"If that takes some extra time and builds additional confidence and fulfils the guidelines that have been developed by Dr. Bonnie Henry and her team, that's what we're going to do in the province of British Columbia," he added.

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