



ASD-W

Anglophone School District West

1135 Prospect Street | Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3B9 | www.asdw.nbed.nb.ca

May 31, 2024

This is a public message pertaining to the instructional times of schools in Anglophone West School District, some that need to be adjusted for the 2024-25 school year.

There is a set amount of time for an instructional day as defined in the collective agreement between the New Brunswick Teachers Federation and the Province of New Brunswick. This amount of time is set as a range of 5.5 to 6 hours per day for students in grades 9 to 12 and 5 to 5.5 hours per day for students in grades K to 8 (beginning next year for K-2). Considering the maximum instructional time, this means that students in grades K to 8 (beginning next year for K-2) receive 1650 instructional minutes per week and the high school students receive 1800 instructional minutes per week. Instructional time is defined as the amount of time from the first bell when students are required to be present to the dismissal time, less the time set for lunch.

With the change in instructional time for grades K-2 that was confirmed with the most recent signing of the collective agreement, there needed to be a change in schedules at many ASD-W schools. For most of the schools, the change in times is minimal. For some schools in Oromocto and Fredericton where elementary schools have an alternate instructional week that has been in place for close to 50 years, the change in schedules is more significant.

Specific to Fredericton and Oromocto, currently students in grades K to 2 attend school for a maximum of 4.5 hours per day (averaged over the week in Fredericton and Oromocto). So, in the afternoon and in Fredericton and Oromocto (where we are seeing the biggest changes), there is a bus run for K-2 students to deliver them home and then the buses return for grade 3-5 students to take them home an hour later, sometimes combining with students in grades 6-8 from another school. With the change in instructional times occurring next year and students in grades K-8 all being the same, we are unable to fit all the students from Fredericton and Oromocto on the buses at the same time to drive them home. What we need to do is deliver the students in grades K-5 home first, and then circle back to pick up students in grades 6 to 8 and 9 to 12. To allow for that to happen, the end times need to be staggered. In staggering the times at the end of the day, the time at the beginning of the day also needs to be adjusted. This will allow K-5 students to be picked up first, in the morning, and then the 6-12 students to be picked up after...but later in the morning compared to what they are used to now.

The nine "big middle and high schools" in Fredericton and Oromocto are impacted the most, with a ripple effect on the corresponding elementary schools. These nine schools include: Leo Hayes High School, Nashwaaksis Middle School, Devon Middle School, Fredericton High School, Bliss Carman Middle School, George Street Middle School, Oromocto High School, Harold Peterson Middle School, and Ridgeview Middles School. This impact is due to the traditional half days of instructions for elementary schools on Wednesday (in Fredericton) and Friday (in Oromocto). To simplify the matter and knowing that this is approximately how it works, basically we see 120 minutes of instruction "less" on Wednesday/Friday afternoon, and an extra 30 minutes at the end of the other four weekdays for the K-5 schools. This is adding to the complexity and later day time shuffles for the middle and high schools. With new language in the collective agreement regarding daily instructional time, the Fredericton/Oromocto elementary scenarios were grandfathered to allow the instructional time to remain "weekly", so that the half-days of instruction could continue. Next year, we will plan to consult with families, staff, the public, and the business community regarding the Wednesday/Friday scenario. A change in the half-day concept for September 2024 is not possible.

To allow for the busing to occur in Fredericton/Oromocto next year, a new bus schedule and instructional day schedule was required. The schedule of times is as follows:

ASD-W

Next School Year (originally proposed)	School	First Bus Arrival	Start of Instructional Day	Minutes for Lunch	End of Instructional Day	Last Bus Leaves
	Oromocto High School	8:55 AM	9:10 AM	60	4:10 PM	4:20 PM
	Harold Peterson Middle School	9:00 AM	9:20 AM	40	3:30 PM	4:00 PM
	Ridgeview Middle School	9:00 AM	9:20 AM	40	3:30 PM	4:00 PM
	Leo Hayes High School	8:55 AM	9:10 AM	60	4:10 PM	4:20 PM
	Devon Middle School	8:55 AM	9:15 AM	60	3:45 PM	4:05 PM
	Nashwaaksis Middle School	8:55 AM	9:15 AM	50	3:35 PM	4:00 PM
	Fredericton High School	8:55 AM	9:10 AM	60	4:10 PM	4:20 PM
	Bliss Carmen Middle School	8:55 AM	9:20 AM	50	3:40 PM	4:05 PM
	George Street Middle School	8:55 AM	9:20 AM	50	3:40 PM	4:05 PM

This schedule was shared with staff and families in late March (some adjustments were made for a few schools). Feedback followed and we continued to examine the scenario in an effort to mitigate concerns. We examined how the schedule could look different, considering the parameters of the collective agreement and the necessity to offer transportation to thousands of students as per the Education Act. We have talked to principals, teachers, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and the District Education Council. We have examined bus routes. We have communicated with some parents and listened to concerns that have been raised. After all of this, we have landed at these times. We are aware that these times may result in a need to shift family routines.

Traditionally, schools in our district choose the time when supervision of students will begin at the school. This will continue for most schools. For the middle schools and high schools in Fredericton and Oromocto, where the biggest shift in schedules has occurred, we have determined that a set time is required so that parents, students, and staff clearly understand when supervision will begin at the start of the day. There must be a balance in determining this time. For example, at the middle and high schools in Fredericton and Oromocto, the first bus currently arrives between 7:30 AM and 7:50 AM. With a start time shifting to a range of 9:10 AM to 9:20 AM, it is not reasonable to have students at school approximately 90 minutes prior to the beginning of their instructional day. Likewise, with the new bus arrival times being 8:55 AM to 9:00 AM, it is not reasonable to limit student arrival to this late in the morning. I have asked the Fredericton and Oromocto Middle and High Schools to begin supervision of students no later than 8:20 AM. It is important to note that if students are dropped off at these schools prior to 8:20 AM, they will not be supervised and won't have entry into the building, unless otherwise communicated by the school. School staff will assume responsibility for students onsite beginning at 8:20 AM.

All remaining schools will continue setting their supervision times as per usual.

For a list of all planned instructional times (for all 70 schools in ASD-W in 2024-25), please visit our website at the following link: [2024-25 School Times for ASD-W Schools – Anglophone School District West \(nbed.ca\)](https://www.nbed.ca/2024-25-School-Times-for-ASD-W-Schools-Anglophone-School-District-West)

Sincerely,



David McTimoney
Superintendent