



ASD-W

Anglophone School District West

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

March 28, 2025

Dear Families,

I write to you today with an important announcement of changes to bell and busing schedules for the **2025–26** school year in the Fredericton and Oromocto areas. These changes were informed by extensive feedback that was gathered from families, staff, students, and community stakeholders, both directly, and through extensive participation in a formal consultation process.

Background

On May 31, 2024, Anglophone School District West (ASD-W) informed families of bell and bus schedule changes for **2024-25**. ([Letter to Families – May 31, 2024](#))

These adjustments were required to respond to the impact of the changes within the latest collective agreement between the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation and the Province of New Brunswick, which increased daily instructional hours for K-2 to match grades 3-8. While most schools saw minimal impact, Fredericton and Oromocto faced unique challenges, in part due to their long-standing half-day schedules on Wednesdays (Fredericton) and Fridays (Oromocto) at the elementary level. Preserving this tradition reduced flexibility in our complex busing system, requiring a significant restructuring that most affected nine schools in these areas.

We made a commitment at that time to consult with all stakeholders and to explore options for the following year.

Consultation Process

On November 15, 2024, ASD-W announced that it had secured consulting firm Porter O'Brien to lead a comprehensive consultation to study and gather feedback on the current bell schedules in Fredericton and Oromocto. ([Letter to Families - November 15 2024](#))

Here is a summary of the process:

- Close to 4000 responses were gathered through an anonymous online survey (open November 18–December 20, 2024)
- General, in-person staff meetings took place on November 26 and December 9. A session for bus drivers was held on December 12.

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- In-person public meetings were held on December 2, 3, and 10.
- Porter O'Brien reviewed the historical context, aggregated the data, and presented a final report to ASD-W in February 2025.
- The report was shared publicly on March 14, 2025 ([Stakeholder Engagement Summary](#)).
- ASD-W created a draft plan that reflects the report, parameters of the teacher's collective agreement and legislation, instructional times (maximizing where best and exercising flexibility within the range when required), complex parameters around busing (schedules and resources available, both buses and drivers), and a reasonable scheduling of learning and working for students and staff.
- We presented this plan to a focus group that included representation from parents, staff, students, and union members.
- Our office reviewed every point and comment brought forward at that session.

New Schedule for 2025–2026

The updated plan for the upcoming school year aims to balance instructional time, transportation logistics, and the well-being of students and staff, while adhering to collective agreements and legislation, and providing some consistency across our district and province. Key elements include:

- **School Start & End Times:** No schools will start earlier than 8:00 AM or later than 8:35 AM, and no schools will dismiss earlier than 2:05 PM or later than 3:35 PM.
- **Consistent Instructional Time:** In alignment with the collective agreement and community feedback, instructional time will be consistent across all days of the week. **Consequently, elementary schools in Fredericton and Oromocto will return to full instructional days on Wednesdays and Fridays.**
- **Busing Adjustments:** Routes have been optimized to efficiently utilize available buses and drivers, minimizing disruptions for families. The transportation management team will continue to examine bus schedules and once they are complete, they will be shared publicly.

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2025-26 Bell Schedule – Fredericton and Oromocto

Potential Provincial Pilot

Should a pilot regarding the school calendar move forward within our province, our district will consider taking part and would choose a cohort of schools from within ASD-W to participate. Parent and staff engagement for those specific schools would occur prior to any decision being made and this would take place only after approval of the concept by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and the ASD-W District Education Council. Please note that the potential provincial pilot was not in scope as we deliberated on the bus and bell schedules specific to our scenario in Fredericton and Oromocto.

Implementation and Next Steps

We recognize that schedule changes require adjustments, and we are committed to supporting a smooth transition. Detailed, school-specific schedules and bus route information will be provided in advance of the new school year as per the traditional manner.

While this schedule is our plan for next year, we recognize that there could be small adjustments based on school circumstances that come forward between now and the end of the school year. Our district team is going to meet with officials from each school and discuss their specific scenario in the months ahead.

Stay Informed & Stay Connected

We encourage you to stay updated by visiting our [website](#). If you have any questions or feedback, please contact your school's administration or the district office at 1-888-388-4455 or asdwinfo@nbed.nb.ca.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to enhance the educational experience for all in our district.

Sincerely,

David McTimoney

ASD-W