



Kindergarten Fact Sheet - Elk Island Catholic Schools

1. When will kindergarten registration open this year?

For the 2020-2021 school year, registration for kindergarten programs across the Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) division will open at midnight on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Registration will be online and parents can create their unique SchoolEngage profile.

Parents can be directed to the Student Registration site on the EICS website <https://www.eics.ab.ca/parents-and-students/school-registration>

2. Why is it later than previous years - it usually happened in early January?

We realize that it is later this year but with the late Fall Alberta budget we needed to give our schools time to properly plan for next year. At the same time, we realize that parents wanted to have enough time to register and attend open houses in the spring for kindergarten.

This year, we are extending the date for pre-kindergarten registration until March 1, 2020, until we have more detailed information about funding and programming options.

3. When is my child eligible to register for kindergarten?

To be eligible to enroll in kindergarten, your child must be 5 years of age by December 31, 2020.

4. How do I register for kindergarten in EICS?

All student registration in EICS is done online via our SchoolEngage process. This allows for all information and documents to be housed on one site within our division and is much more efficient and seamless than paper registration.

The first step to enrolling your child, is to check the Boundary Maps in EICS. A number of our communities (Fort Saskatchewan - Strathcona County) have designated schools.

Check out the EICS Boundary Maps here: [EICS Boundary Maps](#)

To enroll online: Visit the EICS Student Registration page located at:

<https://www.eics.ab.ca/parents-and-students/school-registration>

- **REGISTERING A STUDENT WHEN YOU ARE NEW OR RETURNING TO THE DISTRICT**

If you do not currently have a student registered in the District, you will be unable to log into PowerSchool but the SchoolEngage portal will enable you to register students who are new or returning to EICS.

Go to <https://eics.schoolengage.ca/#/login>

If you have not yet created an account, click "Create new account?"

To finish creating a new account, enter the required information and click "Register"

- **Note: A valid email address will be required to complete the sign up procedure**
2. Once you have registered, log into SchoolEngage and click the "Add Student" button to add a new student, then fill in the information.
 - **Important - all fields other than the ASN are required. The school will fill the ASN itself after registration is complete.**
 3. Click the Graduation Hat icon and choose the student you added to see a list of forms.



If you are registering a new kindergarten student (one who has never existed in the division), the form available will be **"A.1 Kindergarten Registration Form"**

- **REGISTERING A STUDENT USING YOUR EXISTING POWERSCHOOL ACCOUNT**

If you already have access to PowerSchool with EICS (e.g. because a sibling of the student is already attending a school in our district), you can log into PowerSchool and register a new student using the following steps:

Log into <https://powerschool.eics.ab.ca> (contact your school if you do not know your Parent Portal Login Information).

1. Click "SchoolEngage Student Forms".
2. From the menu to the left, choose the icon to Add Student, then fill out the student's information
 - **Important - all fields other than the ASN are required. The school will fill the ASN itself after registration is complete.**
3. Click the Graduation Hat icon and click on the student you just created to see a list of available forms.
4. Click "New" beside the registration form that is relevant for the year you are registering.

To complete the form successfully, you'll also need to ensure that you have a copy of the child's citizenship documentation (e.g. Canadian Birth Certificate, Permanent Residence Card, Student Study Permit, etc.). For students who are not Canadian citizens, we are also required to maintain parent documentation on file (e.g. Permanent Residence Card, Work Permit, etc.).

Once your child is registered with the district, they will automatically be added to your PowerSchool account.



5. Can I register in person or on paper?

Unfortunately not. Online registration is the safest and most effective way to seamlessly register for a school in our division.

6. What kind of programs will be available - days/special programs etc?

Each school determines the specific programming that they will be running in their school based on student enrolment. Refer to school website for more information.

7. Do you have second-language programs for kindergarten?

EICS Is pleased to offer second-language programs in both French Immersion and Ukrainian bilingual. You can access the following school websites for more info:

Jean Vanier Catholic School: Ukrainian Bilingual Program

<https://jv.eics.ab.ca/programs/unique-programs>

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic Elementary School - French Immersion

<https://epk.eics.ab.ca/programs/kindergarten>

8. When will I find out about the kindergarten program after I online register?

Each school will be reviewing all the registrations and determining what type of programming they will be offering based on enrolment. They will then reach out to all the parents to inform them via email. As well, many schools will be offering open houses in the Spring to inform their parent community about their various programs for kindergarten and other grades - so parents are invited to check the school website for the most up to date information.

9. How do I find out about Transportation?

Please note changes to transportation this year:

New Registrations:

New kindergarten registrations, and new Gr 1-12 registrations will now be able to complete transportation requests directly on the registration form.

Once the forms are approved and written back into Powerschool, this information will sync with transportation and allow transportation to begin their process of assessing fees and/or assigning eligible students to routes.

Please note that Brian will indicate to secretaries when they can begin the process of approving and writing back registration forms for the 2020-2021 school year. Do not approve forms until this time.

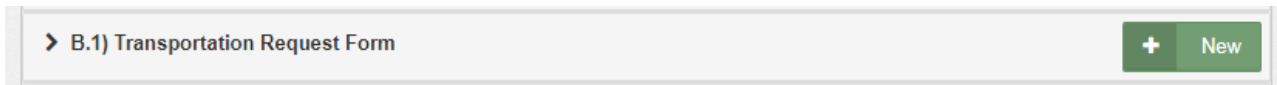
You can work with your principal to review and “approve in theory” registrations as they come in. Once you are able to approve and write back, we would ask that you begin processing these registrations as soon as you can. This will allow transportation to start work on assigning students to routes, fees, etc. Students cannot be assigned to a bus until they are active in PowerSchool and have an ASN number.

Current Students in EICS:

Current students that are in EICS need to fill out a new bus request if they are currently assigned to a bus BUT will be changing schools (ie moving from gr 4 - 5). When a student moves to a new school, all busing is automatically dropped. If they still require busing to the new school, a new request must be submitted.

Current students that are *staying in their school* do not need to fill out a bus request for next year if they are currently assigned to a bus. If they don't currently have busing but require busing for the 20/21 school year, a busing request must be submitted.

To submit a transportation request, log into Powerschool parent account, click on School Engage / Student Forms, click on Students, and on the right hand side under Forms, find Transportation Request Form and click on New. Complete form and submit.



We appreciate parents requesting busing for the 20/21 school year no later than March/April as it gives us a chance to invoice if needed, and get a good idea of bus loads by the end of June. If parents set up a payment plan prior to July 13, they can take advantage of paying for busing over 6 months. Equal payments start coming off of their credit card beginning July 15, and then the 15th of each month after that, with December 15th being the last payment. Once a payment plan is set up OR full payment is received, students will be assigned to their bus.

A Supplemental Bus Fee was approved for the 19/20 school year. \$130.00 is assessed to any student requiring busing to and/or from two different locations on two different buses. This fee "holds" a seat on the second bus and assists us to avoid overcrowding. If a child is going to two different locations and both stops are on the same bus route, there is no extra fee charged.

9. Will my child receive additional supports if needed in kindergarten?

Announcements from the provincial government will hopefully be made by March 2020 regarding early learning programming. If no government decision regarding early learning programs and funding has occurred by March 1, 2020, families who have children with special needs will be put on a waiting list for additional supports until decisions are made regarding early learning programming. Decisions may affect boundaries, programming options, transportation, and eligibility criteria. Parents are invited to register with EICS but we cannot indicate what supports/funding will be in place for September until we receive more direction from Alberta Education/Alberta Health Services.

10. Are there any resources parents can utilize in anticipation of a child's September 1, 2020 start date?

Kindergarten establishes the foundation for learning in your child's future years. With 475 instructional hours and a variety of supplementary services and supports, our kindergarten programs encourage children to expand their abilities and interests, learn about sharing and cooperation, develop self-confidence and experience continuous improvement. Check out the Alberta Education site [here](#).

A positive learning experience at an early age lays the groundwork for children to become enthusiastic lifelong learners. In a safe and caring environment, guided by qualified and caring professionals, kindergarten children in EICS will:

- try new things, take risks and learn to accept rules and responsibility;
- develop positive relationships with others;
- build on and develop problem-solving skills;
- enhance language/reading skills;
- develop attitudes and behaviours that promote wellness and a healthy lifestyle;

Nature Kindergarten-As Described in Registration Form

Sherwood Park / Fort Saskatchewan Schools:

Elk Island Catholic Schools is also offering Nature Kindergarten. This program is separate and supplemental to the core Kindergarten program - students must be registered in a Tuesday/Thursday ECS Program at an EICS school in Fort Saskatchewan or Sherwood Park in order to also register for this Monday/Wednesday Nature Kindergarten program.

This Nature Kindergarten is offered out of St. Luke Catholic School and Holy Redeemer Catholic School (depending upon enough interested registrations). For the 2020-2021 school year, this program will cost \$400.00/month.

If you are interested in this program, please

- finish submitting your registration for the regular EICS Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten programming, which is submitted to the school where your child will attend Kindergarten,
- then on the main screen of SchoolEngage **please also submit** a registration for Nature Kindergarten using the form titled B.3) Nature Kindergarten Registration.

> A.1) Kindergarten Registration Form	+ New
> A.2) Grade 1-12 Registration Form	+ New
> B.1) Transportation Request Form	+ New
> B.2) Medical Status Update / Request for Medical Treatment	+ New
> B.3) Nature Kindergarten Registration	+ New

Please be aware that Nature Kindergarten will not be available if you are attending any program other than a Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten.
Thank you for providing your preferences. Rest assured that the school will contact you with options if for any reason that specific preference cannot be met, either due to programs filling up or low enrolments resulting in a given program not running.

Nature Kindergarten - St Martin

St. Martin's Catholic School is also offering a Nature Kindergarten program. This program is **separate** and **supplemental** to the core Kindergarten program - students must be enrolled in the Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten class in order to also enroll in the Monday/Wednesday Nature Kindergarten class. Parents will fill out preference for nature kindergarten on the kindergarten registration form, as well will need to fill out a Nature Kindergarten Registration Form.

The program is described in detail on the EICS website. For the 2020-2021 school year, Nature Kindergarten at St. Martin's will have an additional fee of \$300.00 per month.

Thank you for providing your preferences. Rest assured that the school will contact you with options if for any reason that specific preference cannot be met, either due to programs filling up or low enrolments resulting in a given program not running.

Nature Kindergarten - St. Patrick

In Camrose, one of the options is Tuesday/Thursday program where Friday programming uses the Nature Kindergarten approach, where students are immersed outside for the entirety of the day. **This is one of the core options listed above - no separate registration is required if you choose that option above.**

Please be aware that there will be an additional fee associated with this program. For 2020-2021 the fee will be \$50.00.