

November Division News!

EIPS 2023-24 Division Calendar: Now Available!

The official 2023-24 EIPS calendar is now available. The calendar includes important dates during the 2023-24 school year, such as school-closure days, breaks, the first and last day of classes, professional learning days, early dismissal days, plus more. Highlights from the 2023-24 EIPS calendar include:

- first day of school – Aug. 31, 2023
- November break – November 6-10
- Christmas break – December 25 to January 5
- second semester starts – February 1
- Teachers' Convention – February 8-9
- spring break – March 25-29
- last day of classes – June 26, 2024

The 2023-24 calendar can be viewed at [eips.ca](https://www.eips.ca) !

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your personal calendar? You can. Simply, <https://www.eips.ca/calendar> and click “subscribe to calendar.” It’s that easy.

Where to Find the Information You Need

Elk Island Public Schools and Wes Hosford School use a handful of key systems to share information with students and families. Depending on the information you’re looking for, it’s important to know where to look.

PowerSchool is the primary student information system within the Division. From the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), you can:

- Access student grades and report cards;
- Review student absences;
- Pay school and transportation fees; and
- Submit official updates to student or family information.

[Brightspace Parent & Guardian](#) provides more of a day-to-day look what’s happening with your child’s learning communicated directly from your child’s teacher. From Brightspace Parent & Guardian, and depending on which of the program functions are specifically used by your child’s teacher, you can see your child’s:

- classroom activity feed,
- grade items and grade feedback from instructors,
- upcoming assignments,
- portfolio evidence and
- quizzes

[Brightspace for Students](#) is where many teachers share updates, calendar reminders and learning materials with students. Compatible with Google, it also allows students to submit assignments, complete quizzes, and see grades and teacher feedback.

[SchoolMessenger](#) is the system the Division and schools use to send email and phone communication to families. The contact information in SchoolMessenger is populated from PowerSchool. Through SchoolMessenger, families can:

- receive general, emergency and attendance messages by phone, email or both; and
- manage their subscription preferences for these types of messages.

If you have trouble accessing any of these systems or have questions about them, contact Wes Hosford School at 780-464-1711

Inclement Weather

With the winter season almost here, we want to remind families to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions.

If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) advises families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools—automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on <https://www.eips.ca> and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and notification through both the Bus Status and the Ride 360 apps. Morning bus cancellations are posted on www.eips.ca by 6:30 a.m.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that state, “school bus service may be suspended...when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C, including wind chill factor, in one or more regions.” Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road conditions. When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

New Report Cards

To best communicate student learning, some changes have been made to report cards, including a slight redesign. This November, parents and guardians will continue to access report cards through PowerSchool—simply log in to your account and click on the “Report Card” button in the lefthand sidebar.

Similar to the previous report card, students will still be assessed on a Learner Attributes Scale and Achievement Scale. Some categories have been modified to align with the new curriculum.

Spread the Word: EIPS is Hiring Substitute Educational Assistants and CTS/CTF Teachers

Do you know someone who may be interested in part-time, flexible work as a substitute educational assistant (EA) or substitute teacher specializing in Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and Career and Technology Foundations (CTF)? Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is hiring—spread the word!

EAs are integral to the school team, assisting teachers with instructional and non-instructional tasks in the classroom and other school activities. Whether it's working one-on-one with individual students or with a small group of students in a class or special program, EAs provide support and assistance to help students achieve success.

Substitute teachers are needed every day across the Division, and vacancies in CTF and CTS classrooms require a specific skillset. Applicants must have or be eligible for an Alberta Teaching Certificate and have related CTS/CTF training or experience.

Substitutes are needed to fill positions at all school locations until the end of the school year. The application deadline is November 18. If you know someone who'd be great in one of these roles, encourage them to apply today.