



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE TALKS ON BC K-12 SCHOOL SUPPORTS FOR COVID-19 THIS NOVEMBER

27 October 2020 - Families of Kindergarten to Grade 12 students who need help during COVID-19 will have a chance to learn what they can expect from schools, through a series of free online conversations from the BCEdAccess Society.

“Students are entitled to the same access to education during COVID-19 as always — whether they are learning in person, through distributed learning, or in a flexible or hybrid program,” says Tracy Humphreys, chair of BCEdAccess. For students with disabilities and diverse abilities, that means access to full-time, in-person instruction five days a week.

It also means continuity of individual education plan goals and the supports those students need to be able to learn.

Thanks to support from the Canadian Red Cross and the Government of Canada, these talks will spread the word to families, caregivers and students throughout the province.

Through the funding, BCEdAccess will also be creating videos, facilitated community conversations, GIFs, social media outreach, and offline outreach to communities. Says Humphreys, “We recognize that many students may not have the same access to computers and social media. So we will also be reaching out to community organizations with offline supports.” Broadband Internet at a speed fast enough to download an email or hold web meetings is not available province-wide and students can face data caps on basic Internet plans. These barriers are more common in remote, rural and Indigenous communities.

Free tickets are available at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bcedaccess-covid-19-outreach-conversations-tickets-125978867183>

Key Dates

These free talks will feature a short video discussing each topic, followed by a live conversation between the BCEdAccess team and parents, caregivers and community supports.

Participants can take part in any of five talks, which include captioning and ASL interpretation.

November 1 and 2

COVID-19 and Your Child’s Access to Education: Rights and Services Without Delay

November 8 and 9

Your Child’s Key Education Support Tool: the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

November 15 and 16

Learning During COVID: options for when, where and how

November 22 and 23

The People Supporting Your Child: EAs, Specialist Teachers and Professionals

November 29 and 30

When Your Child Isn't Getting What they Need or Deserve

Full details and information about the events are available at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bcedaccess-covid-19-outreach-conversations-tickets-125978867183>.

About BCEdAccess

Founded in 2014 by a small group of parents struggling to get their kids support at school, BCEdAccess has grown to over 3100 parent support group members. They participate in individual and systemic advocacy around the province. Their survey tracking exclusions in BC schools showed over 3600 instances of student exclusions in the 2018/2019 school year. Their Forced Out survey found parents of children with disabilities were feeling forced to pull their kids from public schools. It found 44% of members note they have no access to specialized services, 42% cite inadequate training for educational assistants, and 43% said schools are not following their child's individual education plan. The reports and recommendations can be found on the website: www.bcedaccess.com

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With support from:



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Video

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvnNe1qQTEc>