



2022-2023 Learning Pathways Guide

Northern Lights Public Schools believes it is important for families to have choice in education within the public school system.

We continue to offer a number of Learning Pathways, and the opportunity families to choose the one that works best for their child.

Many of our schools offer unique programming and learning opportunities for students. We encourage families to learn more about what each of our schools has to offer and ask questions about the programming and services provided to students.

Table of Contents

<u>Learning Pathways</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Learning Together on Location</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Learning Together Anywhere</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>LTA or Home Education</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Learning Independently (Home Education)</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Selection of Learning Option</u>	<u>8</u>



Learning Pathways

For the 2022-20223 school year, families with students in Kindergarten to Grade 9 can choose from three Learning Pathways.

Provincial COVID restrictions have now been lifted, and students who choose an in-person learning experience will have the opportunity to experience athletics, extracurricular activities and field trips this year.

Last year we converted our online learning program into a school, enhancing the services provided to families who choose that option. Our Learning Together Anywhere School offers gold standard project-based learning to students in Kindergarten to Grade 9.

In addition, parents have the option to participate in home education, independent of, or in partnership with an NLPS school. Students in grades 1-9 will partner with our Learning Together Anywhere School and grades 10-12 will partner with Northern Lights Outreach.

For all three options, programming will be provided in accordance with Alberta Education requirements including hours of instruction, expected learning outcomes, and assessment.

High school students also have a variety of pathways to earn the credits they need to graduate. Families are advised to discuss the options available with their child's school.



Learning Together on Location

In-person classes with a teacher at one of our 26 schools.



Learning Together Anywhere

At-home teacher-directed learning featuring a blend of online instruction and project-based learning. Students require supervision/assistance from an adult.



Learning Independently

A Home Education program available in partnership with a Northern Lights school. This option is for parents who decide to retain responsibility for educating their child.

Learning Together on Location

All provincial COVID restrictions have been lifted and students will be able to participate in athletics, extracurricular activities and field trips in 2022-2023.

Northern Lights Public Schools will return to following the public health guidelines that were in place for schools prior to the pandemic. This includes recommending that students and staff stay home when they are sick, sending home students who become sick while at school, and contacting Alberta Health Services when absences due to illness are higher than usual.

There are many respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses that are easily transmitted in a school environment. Staying home when sick can significantly reduce outbreaks and decrease disruptions to learning that occur when large numbers of students and staff at a school become ill. Practising proper [handwashing](#), using hand sanitizer when washing is not possible, avoiding sharing of food and beverages, and coughing and sneezing into your elbow or away from others, can also help reduce the spread of illness in our schools.



Stay Home When Sick



How do you know when your child is too sick to go to school? Check out our [Too Sick for School Infographic](#) for things to consider when you are deciding whether or not to send your child to school when they are sick.

Information about common minor illness and injury in children can be found on the [Alberta Health Services HEAL website](#), including information about the causes, symptoms and home management options for minor illnesses and when to seek medical care. The content comes from experts at Alberta's Children's Hospital and Stollery Children's Hospital.

Learning Together Anywhere

Students enrolled in our Learning Together Anywhere School follow the same curriculum and [calendar](#) as our other schools. Instead of attending classes in person, they connect with their teachers and classmates online. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 9 are engaged through live on screen instruction, pre-recorded teacher-directed lessons, and project-based learning.

Technology Requirements

Each student will need their own device (Chromebook, laptop or computer) with a working camera and microphone. Phones and tablets will not be sufficient for participation. A reliable Internet connection is essential.

For 2022-2023, all students enrolled in LTA will receive a free Chromebook!

Extracurricular Activities

Students will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities including individual and teams sports and possibly Esports.

Parent Involvement

In order for students to fully participate, an adult will need to provide some supervision and assistance. The level of involvement will vary depending on the age, grade level and individual needs of the student. Parents will need to commit to ongoing, timely communication with their child's teacher to ensure outcomes are being met. They will also be expected to assist and support students in using the technology required to participate.

Learn More

Go to learningtogetheranywhere.ca for more information about our school!



LTA or Home Education?

For parents who would prefer to have their children learn at home, it is important to understand the difference between our **Learning Together Anywhere School** and Learning Independently as part of a Home Education program in partnership with NLPS.

Learning Together Anywhere

- Teacher-Directed - The teacher is responsible for creating lesson plan, delivering instruction and assessing student learning.
- Student-Centred - Students share in learning decisions, believing in their capacity to lead and help in planning, implementation, and assessments.
- Parents support their children to complete assignments and exams and use the technology required to participate.
- Families can access support services for their students.



Learning Independently

- Parents create lesson plans, choose the format of instruction, assignments and exams, and take on the role of providing it.
- Parents may connect with other families for group learning experiences.



Home Education (in partnership with NLPS)

Home Education is a parent-directed approach to educating a student in Grades 1 to 12 at home or elsewhere in which they are responsible for making all educational decisions.

Parents choosing Home Education have the primary responsibility for planning, managing, providing, evaluating, and supervising their children's courses of study. They must develop a Home Education program that enables the student to achieve appropriate learning outcomes.

If a parent requests it, the associate board must provide assistance and advice to improve student learning.

The associate board must also arrange for certificated teachers employed by the associate board to conduct at least two formal evaluations of each student each school year.

These evaluations include a review of the student portfolio & recommendations to help students make improvements.

Together with the parents, the associate school board must ensure that each student meets the parents' educational outcomes in accordance with the [Home Education Regulation](#).

In order to receive their portion (50%) of the Home Education Grant, the parent must have been notified and been accepted by an associate board regarding the Home Education program by September 30.

If you are pursuing Home Education, you will need to complete the [Home Education Regulation Notification Form](#)

Before you complete the form, we recommend you speak to our school principals about what home education connected to NLPS looks like. Please contact our [Learning Together Anywhere School](#) (grades 1-9) or [Northern Lights Outreach schools](#) (grades 10-12) to discuss your options.

More information about Home Education is available at: nlpsab.ca/programs/home-education and in the [Alberta Education Home Education Handbook](#).



Selection of Learning Option

Learning Together on Location

If you intend for your child to return to in-person classes, and you are already registered with NLPS, you do not need to re-register.

The week before school starts, you will receive notification that there is a 2022-2023 Student Update and Verification Form for you to complete in School Engage. Please complete and submit this as soon as possible so we can ensure we have your up-to-date contact information.



Learning Together Anywhere

If you are already an NLPS student and would like to transfer to our Learning Together Anywhere School, please contact your current school and tell them you wish to transfer. Please do this as soon as possible so we can ensure adequate staffing and supports are in place.

If you are not already enrolled with NLPS, please register online at nlpsab.ca, select the online learning option and choose Learning Together Anywhere School.



Home Education

Parents who wish to participate in Home Education in partnership with NLPS are required to complete the [Home Education Regulation Notification Form](#). This should be done as soon as possible to ensure appropriate resources are in place.