NEAR NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES OF STUDENTS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL ADDENDUM 1

September 4, 2025

Addendum 1 to the document [Additional Information](#) for Families of Students Who Will Be Attending McDougall Public School, Nobel Public School and Parry Sound High School.

Dear Parry Sound High School Families,

We are pleased to share an update on the progress being made to prepare the existing Parry Sound High School (PSHS) for the safe return of students and staff. Every effort is being made to ensure that the existing PSHS is ready to receive staff and students as soon as possible and to limit the duration of any remote learning programs. Near North District School Board (NNDSB) has been working diligently with our partners to ensure all necessary inspections and approvals are completed. Below is a summary of the work completed so far, along with the final steps underway.

Completed Items (as outlined in the Information for Families document)

1. **Exterior Emergency Exits Re-established**
   Two exterior exits that were temporarily closed during demolition have now been restored as emergency exits. Fencing will be installed to guide individuals safely to the sidewalk. Final weatherproofing of the west corridor wall is also being completed.

2. **Electrical Safety Approval**
   The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) will return next week for a final inspection. Once complete, a report will be submitted to both the Town of Parry Sound and NNDSB.

3. **Fire Safety System Plan**
   A third-party contractor has inspected the fire safety system and confirmed that it is safe and operational. The fire safety plan has been reviewed and officially approved by the Parry Sound Fire Department.

4. **Indoor Air Quality Testing**
   Air quality testing was completed on Aug. 28 by a certified third-party provider. The final report will be shared with the Town of Parry Sound Building Department upon receipt.

Additional work completed:

5. **Heating System Inspection**
   A third-party inspection has confirmed all safety features are working properly. NNDSB is installing a control switch today (Sept. 4). A formal report will be shared with the Town of Parry Sound once the work is complete.

6. **Lead Testing**

In compliance with Ontario Regulation 243/07, water samples were collected on Aug. 28 at PSHS. A third-party environment testing firm has confirmed that the samples are compliant with the Ontario drinking water quality standard for lead.

Once the above items are finalized, NNDSB will:

- Confirm with the Town of Parry Sound Building Department that all outstanding requirements have been met.

Following these confirmations, we will be ready to welcome staff - and shortly thereafter students- back to Parry Sound High School.

Remote Learning

Device Request and Deployment:

We understand the concerns about technology access and appreciate your patience as we work to support all students. On Wednesday, Aug. 27, a [survey](#) was sent to all families of students in PSHS Grades 9-12 to identify technology needs. Families that indicated a need for a device were contacted over the weekend, and those who requested one were able to pick up a Chromebook on Tuesday, Sept. 2. To ensure no student is left behind, a second survey was sent yesterday afternoon to capture any additional needs.

As we continue to support students during the remote learning period at Parry Sound High School, we want to ensure that all learners have access to the tools they need to succeed.

Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Device Request and Deployment:

If your child has been assigned a device through the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) program, please know that our Special Education team is working hard to get these devices ready. Unlike Chromebooks, SEA devices need to be individually set up to match each student's unique learning needs. This extra step helps ensure your child receives the right support to succeed.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we complete this process. Devices will be available for pick-up very soon at your local elementary school site. We will follow up with specific dates and times.

Internet Access/Connectivity Support:

For families that indicated they do not have reliable internet access—whether due to no connection, dial-up service, or reliance on personal cellular data - MiFi (mobile personal hotspot) devices are being prepared to support your child's learning. These portable internet tools require a subscription with our local cellular provider, and we can confirm that those subscriptions have been secured.

Our Information Technology team is currently configuring the MiFi units to ensure they are ready for use. This includes verifying coverage areas and aligning each device with the needs identified through the [Family Remote Readiness Survey](#). We anticipate that these devices will be available for distribution this week, alongside other technology supports.

We understand how critical internet access is to your child's success in remote learning, and we appreciate your patience as we finalize these preparations.

Remote Learning Programs, Policies and Procedures:

For more information about the Remote Learning program, please visit the [NNDSB website](#). In accordance with PPM 164, the Near North District School Board has created an online **[Exemption Form](#)** to facilitate synchronous learning exemption requests. Students who are unable to participate in live, interactive (synchronous) remote learning may request an exemption using the board's online form. Exempted students are still expected to engage in daily learning through independent (asynchronous) activities, maintain regular communication with their teacher, complete assignments, and participate in assessment and reporting. Online resources may still act as a critical support for learning, even if they are not accessed in a live learning environment.

We appreciate your continued patience and support as we work to ensure a safe and smooth transition back into the building. NNDSB remains committed to transparency and safety throughout this process.