

May 9, 2024

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Introduction of an Annual Emergency Preparedness Fee – September 2024

To date, schools have organized the collection and maintenance of emergency supplies for their students. Some schools have charged parents/caregivers a small fee for these provisions, while at other schools, the PAC has raised funds for them.

Over the last two years, the district has reviewed what is in place at each school and determined that schools were in varying states of readiness for a large-scale incident, such as an earthquake. We believe there needs to be an equitable, centralized and coordinated approach to emergency preparedness. Ultimately, the aim is to ensure that all schools have what they need to care for students in the event of an incident that may require students to remain at school for up to 72 hours until they are picked up by their parents/caregivers and it is safe for them to return home.

The school district has used one-time funding from its budget to ensure all schools have the emergency provisions they need, including food, water and first aid items. We anticipate that we have enough supplies to support all students for one day, two thirds of students for two days and one third of students for three days, recognizing that students will leave school and return to their families as soon as they are able to.

While we have sufficient supplies in place now, we need to plan for the maintenance and replenishment of these supplies as they will expire over time. **As a result, starting in September 2024, the district will be introducing a new annual Emergency Preparedness Fee of \$10 per student.** Details on how to pay this fee will be provided at the start of the school year.

These fees are non-refundable. They will be held in trust and only used to replenish and enhance emergency supplies. Any emergency supplies may be re-distributed between schools to meet urgent needs recognizing that parts of the district may be more severely impacted by an incident than others. This would occur at the discretion of the school district in consultation with school administration.

The district will also accept donations for the Emergency Preparedness fund, so if you would like to give more than the suggested amount of \$10 per student, it would be much appreciated. Please note: Donations of \$25 or more will receive a taxable donation receipt. More information on how to donate will be provided at the start of the new school year. We recognize that some families are struggling financially, especially in the current economic climate. Please contact your school principal if your family needs assistance with this fee. Discretion will be maintained.

This week (May 5-11) is [Emergency Preparedness Week](#) in Canada. This is a good opportunity for you to ensure that the emergency release contacts your school has on file for your child are up to date. You can review this information on Parent Connect. Also, for suggestions on putting together an at-home emergency preparedness plan and kit, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email info@deltaschools.ca or contact your school principal. Thank you for your support with our Emergency Preparedness program.

Sincerely,

Nicola Christ
Secretary-Treasurer
Delta School District

Vanessa Heal
Emergency Preparedness Officer
Delta School District