

Deputy Minister's Bulletin

– INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Ministry of Education



Date: February 22, 2019

Title: Erase Training Requirements and Compliance Deadline Extension

Dear Independent School Principals:

In October 2018, the Ministry communicated updates regarding Safe and Caring Schools for the 2018/19 school year via the [Deputy Minister's bulletin](#). These updates included revised Erase training requirements for the 2018/19 school year. The deadline set by the Ministry to comply with these requirements was April 1, 2019.

To ensure independent schools are safe and supportive learning environments for the students they serve, as well as supporting schools in meeting the Erase training inspection requirements, the Ministry has allocated funding for Erase training sessions hosted by independent schools. The Ministry is grateful to FISA BC for coordinating and facilitating these sessions across the province. Please see the [FISA BC website](#) for detailed information about upcoming sessions (including registration links).

By the end of the 2018/19 school year, the Ministry will have funded a record number of Erase training sessions hosted by independent schools:

- 4 Basic VTRA – Violence Threat Risk Assessment (offered between January and February 2019)
- 3 Basic DTA – Digital Threat Assessments (offered in March 2019)
- 3 Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities (offered between February and May 2019)

Please note that the three Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities training sessions (formerly Level 1) being offered this school year will take place between February and May 2019. This is later in the year than the Ministry had anticipated and for this reason **the April 1 Erase training requirement deadline is being extended to June 15, 2019** to provide schools with the opportunity to have staff attend the additional sessions being offered this Spring.

Independent school staff are also welcome to attend training sessions hosted by public school districts (subject to availability), and are encouraged to reach out to district staff to register for these sessions. The schedule for Erase training sessions hosted by public school districts is periodically communicated via the Deputy Minister's bulletin, but can be viewed anytime in the secure [Safe School Coordinator's portal](#) on the Erase website (please see the link to the Secure Login at the bottom of the page linked above).

In response to the challenges that many schools face regarding travel and release time to attend in-person Erase training sessions, and in keeping with our commitment to enhance accessibility of all training opportunities, the Ministry is working with Safer Schools Together and Open Schools BC to develop online training options, starting with Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities (formerly "Level 1"). This new online training offering will include self-directed and webinar components and is now scheduled to launch early in 2020.

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The Ministry thanks you for your ongoing efforts to prioritize opportunities for appropriate staff to attend these important training sessions.

Best Regards,

Marnie Mayhew
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