

ISL Orientation



***A Newcomer's
guide to
PEI's School System***

**Immigrant Student Liaison
Program (ISL)**



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General Information for PEI **Public School**

Children aged 7 to 16 years, ‘**by law**’, must attend school. Children are required to obtain an education if they are between the ages of seven and sixteen. This is the law in Prince Edward Island. Before the age of 7 and after the age of 16, it is the parents’ or the individual’s decision whether to go to school. If for some reason a child between the ages of 7 and 16 is not attending school, involvement and investigation by the Department of Social Services may take place.

Provincial taxes (PST and Income Tax) pay for provincial public education from grades 1 to 12, so public education is mostly **free** (with the exception of some costs; for example, school supplies, gym fees, etc). Kindergarten is also funded; however, college and university are not funded.

Publicly funded schools (Public Schools) are administered and directed by School Boards. Members are elected by the people of the community and are called Trustees.

There are three school board offices in PEI:

- Western School Board
- Eastern School District - Charlottetown schools and schools in the East.
- La Commission scolaire de langue française

Zoning

Where you live determines the school that your child attends. The Eastern School District requires students to attend specific schools, depending on a boundary or zone around the school. This boundary is defined by the streets and homes. This enables the School Board to plan for school programming and staffing.

By attending the zoned school, this also gives students transportation to and from school. School buses are scheduled and numbered depending on location and school. Please note that there is no school bus/transportation for Kindergarten children. This is the responsibility of the parents.

Not all students will be assigned a bus for transportation to school. This will depend on the distance between your house and the school. The general rule is: for Elementary schools, if you live within 1 kilometer or less from the school, your child will walk; more than 1 kilometer, there will be a school bus. For Junior High and High schools, if you live within 1.6 kilometers or less, your child will walk; more than 1.6 kilometers, there will be a school bus.



PEI Public Education School levels

- **Kindergarten** (approximately 5 years old - *preschool*). Paid for by the provincial government. Check with the specific kindergarten to find out schedules. Generally, only half day programs.
- **Elementary** (grades 1-6). *Generally, children must be 6 years old to be registered/enrolled in grade 1.* Core subjects such as: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, French, Physical Education, Art, Music, and CIT (Communication, Information, and Technology - *Computer*).
- **Intermediate** (grades 7-9 - also called 'Junior High School'). Core subjects such as: Art, CIT, French, Health/Family Life, Home Economics, Industrial Technology, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts.
- **High School** (grades 10-12). High school is divided into two semesters a year, generally, for three years. Each semester enables the student to earn four credits. While there is a list of core subjects to be taken, there is also a large selection of other subjects and electives from which to choose. Students require 20 credits to graduate, but this may be 'student specific' depending on grade of entry. This will be determined upon registration. Previous school transcripts will be considered when granting past credits.

Registration Process

Registration is usually done through the Immigrant Student Liaison Program (ISL) at the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada (PEIANC) in partnership with the Department of Education's EAL Reception Centre. Once the Immigrant Student Liaison Program officers complete their intake process, they will contact the EAL Reception Centre to set up an appointment to have your child's English language ability assessed. The EAL Assessment Specialist with the Department of Education will complete an intake form and will ask you to sign a permission form to complete a language assessment with your child. Parents may choose if they want to have the assessment done or not, or they may choose to have the assessment completed at a later date. However, if you do not have the assessment done, your child will not be eligible for EAL Itinerant teacher services or EAL tutoring services. The EAL Assessment Specialist will also ask you to sign a form giving permission to share the results of the assessment with your child's school.



You should still provide all of the following information, when possible, to register your child for school.

- proof of child's age - a birth certificate or passport
- proof of address - apartment lease with your name and address
- proof of child's immigration status - birth certificate, passport, Record of Landing or confirmation of permanent residence.
- Immunization record - proof that your child has been immunized. In PEI, the Department of Public Health administers some immunizations according to a provincial age/grade schedule. In some grades (grade 3 & 9), immunizations are given at school during school hours, particularly for *Hepatitis B*, *Tetanus*, and *Diphtheria*.
- Records of previous education or past transcripts.

“A school board shall determine the placement of students in the various classes and schools in accordance with the students’ needs, their educational attainments, the facilities of the unit and any school attendance plan currently in effect in the unit.1993,c.35,s.51.” (PEI School Act)

EAL Instruction (*EAL - English as an Additional Language*)

“EAL” is the term used in the PEI school system, as some students are learning English as a third or fourth language. Once the language assessment is done, the EAL Assessment Specialist will make recommendations for EAL support based on your child’s language ability. Students may be recommended for EAL tutoring and/or work with an EAL Itinerant Teacher, in coordination with other regular content classes. In some instances where students already have quite strong English, they will be recommended for regular content classes only (no EAL support).

In grades 1-9, students will follow the regularly scheduled classes and will be given English language work to be done in class to follow the same routing as other students as much as possible. The EAL Itinerant teacher may either work with your child in their regular content classroom, or the EAL teacher may take your child from class to receive individual or small group EAL instruction.

In grades 10-12, the amount of EAL support students will receive is also determined after an assessment is performed and a level is established. At both Colonel Gray High School and Charlottetown Rural High School, there are EAL classes offered as part of the school curriculum. These courses focus on the core skill areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Listening and speaking skills often develop more quickly than reading and writing skills. Upon successful completion of the EAL courses, students earn credit for these courses. The EAL courses are considered a foundation for integrating into the regular high school curriculum.

It is important to remember that, because of the length of time it takes to learn a new language; older students are not always able to graduate by the age of eighteen (18) or nineteen (19). Much depends on each student’s level of English competency at the time of arrival in Canada.

Older learners can, however, still complete high school and even go on to university at an older age. This is quite normal in Canada.

All students learn at different rates, even two children in the same family. Within one or two years, most newcomer students are able to use English *Social Language* (the language we use to communicate in day to day situations). However, students may require from five to nine years to develop the *Academic Language* (the ability to read, write and understand complex academic material) in order to communicate at the same level as their English speaking classmates.

Suggestions:

- Talk with your child in your first language. Provide opportunities for your child to continue learning his or her first language while learning English. Children who express themselves well in their first language find it easier to learn English.
- Encourage your child to continue to read and write in his or her first language. Teachers find that students who read and write well in their first language learn to read and write English more quickly. They also find that students are more able to keep up in science and math. Many public libraries have multi-lingual books, tapes and video collections.
- Encourage your child to participate in group activities or sports with other students after school where he or she will be speaking in English.

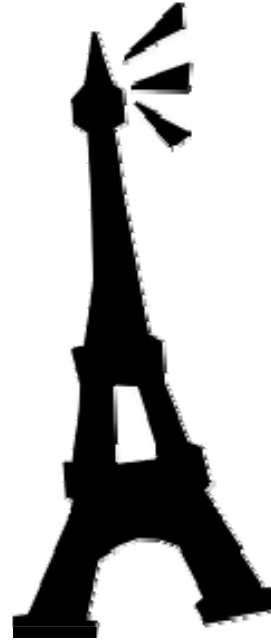


French Language Study

In Canada children have the option of becoming bilingual in English and French, the two official languages of Canada. Some school boards offer Core French and French Immersion programs.

Core French is a basic introduction to the French Language. Students learn vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure and comprehension. In PEI, this usually starts in grade 4. French Immersion is an optional program for children whose first language is not French. French Immersion programs begin in either grade 1 or grade 7 (Late French Immersion). In French Immersion, students learn most of the curriculum in French, but as students get older, they take some subjects in English. The Immersion Program continues through Secondary (High) School. Not all schools offer a French Immersion Program.

The PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada offers a Francophone Settlement Program to help with settlement issues in the French language. The program offers support to Francophone Immigrants, as well as local Francophone organizations dealing with immigration and multiculturalism.



Sample School Policies

Caring Places to Learn

This policy is designed to ensure schools provide a *healthy, safe and supportive working and learning environment*. Every school has its own Code of Conduct.

Behaviors such as abuse, violence, bullying, discrimination, sexual abuse, threats, trespassing, and possession of weapons will not be tolerated and should be reported immediately so they can be dealt with appropriately. In Canada, teachers are forbidden to use corporal punishment — not allowed to hit students. There are laws against physical discipline in Canada.

Disciplinary Procedures

Discipline is the manner in which a bad behavior is corrected

In Canada, schools are not as strict or formal as in many other countries. All schools and classes have their own rules of conduct but, generally, school in PEI is more liberal or informal than in other countries of the world.

Teachers are friendly and informal with students. Schools allow students to express their opinions and thoughts. There is a high degree of respect for teachers and a high value is placed on learning.

. Disciplinary action will depend on the severity (how serious) and frequency (how often) of the offence. It can include a warning, a noon or after-school detention (principal's office or classroom), a call home for parent contact, extra school work (cleaning, letter of apology or assignments), parent-teacher meetings, suspensions from extra-curricular activities and school sponsored events (school dances, sports, field trips, etc), or suspension from school (1-5 days). In very rare cases, students may be expelled from school (forbidden to return to that school).

Some changes in your child's behavior may be a normal part of adjusting to a new school, language or country.



Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary to increase your child's opportunity for learning, and to meet the evaluation requirements. Attendance is the responsibility of the student AND the parents. There are many times when a student doesn't want to go to school. It is then the parents' responsibility to make sure the student goes.

Parents should call the school if their child will not be attending classes, regardless of the reason (sick, appointment, vacation, religious/cultural holiday or festivity, etc). Please call each day that your child is absent. If your child is absent from school, your call might sound like this:



"This is (your name), my child, (child's name) is sick today. My child's teacher is (teacher's name)."

Also, a note should be sent to your child's teacher if your child will be leaving school early. Students are not supposed to leave school property without permission.

If a student is arriving late or leaving early, they must visit the office to *sign in* or *sign out*.

Don't keep your children at home unless they are sick or have a scheduled appointment (doctor, dentist, etc).

If Your Child Becomes Sick at School

If your child becomes sick or has an accident while at school, someone at the school will call you at the phone numbers on the school records. You or the emergency contact person must pick up your child as soon as possible.

Schools have a staff member with first aid training. If the accident or illness is serious, the school will call an ambulance and will call you. If an ambulance is needed, a staff member will accompany your child to the hospital.



Extra-Curricular Activities

These are activities that take place outside of the regular class routine (school dances, theatre or museum visits, ski trips, etc.).

Parent consent forms must be signed/completed *before* any activities occur: no signed consent form means no participation in activity.

Applicable fees must be paid for the activity. Usually \$2-10.

Students must follow the same general rules of conduct when participating in extra-curricular activities.

Detention or suspension from school will mean suspension from extra-curricular activities...*No participation.*



Keep In Mind

Books

Books are considered *borrowed*, not owned by the student. They belong to the school and are to be returned in acceptable condition. Books will be used again the following year by other students. Failure to do this may lead to transcripts, reports cards, or class admittance being denied OR payment for replacing the book. Please try not to write on or tear/rip the pages.



School Buses



Once you have found the designated bus stop, it is important to make sure students are at the stop on time, every day. Being late will mean that the student will have missed the bus and alternate arrangements will have to be made.

If your child will be taking the bus to and from school, it is important to remember that the children/students are responsible to obey the bus driver just like the teacher when in class. They should behave as if they are in school for safety reasons.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Please make note: as of April 2007, all cellular telephones and video devices are prohibited from use in schools at all times by students, teachers, parents, and visitors. These devices must be turned off and out of sight while in the school building and on school buses. Any electronic device that is visible, makes noise, or is being used without authorization will be taken from the user. Also, MP3 players or IPODs have restricted use guidelines in public schools and use must be authorized by teachers.



Homework



Students, *with parental support*, are responsible for completion of homework. Homework is important for the success of the student. Contact your child's teacher or the PEIANC if he or she is having difficulty doing homework. We can help arrange for a tutor if it is necessary.

Your involvement will help your child be a successful student and will help you see how your child is doing in school.

The amount of homework given by the teacher is the amount the student is expected to do. It is your decision if you want to give your child more work but be aware that this is a transition period for your child too. Try not to pressure your child too much. They need time to socialize and relax at the end of the day, as adults do. Children also experience stress! Making friends and being accepted helps your child feel comfortable at school and focus on his or her school work. Remember to praise your child when he/she has done a good job...this will keep them motivated.

Anxiety

Your child may feel anxious about starting school in a new country and learning a new language. Anxiety can affect the way your child thinks and feels. If he or she feels anxious, it may be hard for your child to learn. Some symptoms of anxiety are: stomach aches, headaches, tiring easily or inability to sleep, aggressiveness, sadness, silence, irritability, and/or denial of the changes.

Suggestions:

- Talk with your child about how he or she feels. Share your own feelings about how you are adjusting to life on PEI.
- Explain that it is normal to be anxious when making big changes in your life.
- Encourage your child to talk about what happens at school. *Remember, you were once their age!*
- Listening to your child helps you understand what is going well and what might be difficult. Ask your child a question to start the conversation.

- Remind your child of situations that used to be difficult but are easier now. Acknowledge small successes in dealing with difficult situations. For example, celebrate the completion of the first two months of school.
- Tell the teacher that your child is feeling a little anxious so the teacher can help your child feel more comfortable.

Illegal Substances

Illegal substances include drugs and alcohol. Students are not permitted to possess, sell, or be under the influence of any illegal substances on school property; this includes any school-sponsored events like extra-curricular activities, school sports, and school dances. Also, there is to be no smoking cigarettes on school property according to the rules and regulations of the Eastern School District.

For all violations, parents will be notified with the possibility of notifying police. It is good practice to ensure your child stays away from tempting situations. It is also important to talk to your child about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. You are a role model to your children and often they will do as you do.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Two(2) sets of formal interviews are held every school year. It is required by the *School Act* that schools must have regular reporting to parents on students progress. Your participation is strongly recommended as communication between parents and teachers is essential in the progress/success of your child. The PEI Association for New-comers to Canada will try to provide an interpreter when possible. Schools are usually closed for one (1) day during Parent Teacher Interviews. Please see the school calendar or handbook for scheduled Interviews.



Interviews are usually scheduled in 10 or 15 minute blocks of time. Ensure that you are there at least 5 minutes early so you can have your full scheduled time with the teacher.

Note: Teachers like to meet with parents; therefore, a parent may schedule an interview with a teacher at ANY TIME. We would be happy to help arrange the meeting for you. You should contact the teacher, or the PEIANC, if your children:

- Are unhappy at school;
- Need more help with English;
- Don't understand the school work;
- Find the work too difficult or too easy;
- Are having problems with other children.

Contact Information

Every parent/guardian should have the school contact information for each child's school. This includes: school telephone number, school schedule, principal/vice-principal names, teacher names, website address, etc. A school handbook/agenda should be given to students upon registration at each school with specific information, policies and procedures. Students should know their own contact information. You may want to have this information written on a piece of paper in a location that the student can find easily when at school (in a binder or agenda book).

Students should know:

Their full name;
Their home telephone number;
Their home address;
Their parent or guardian's full name;
An emergency contact name and telephone number.

Your children should also know:

Where to go incase of an emergency;
Never to talk to strangers;
Never to get into a stranger's car;
Never to accept candy or gifts from strangers;
To always play in a safe place;
To walk in groups, whenever possible.

Dress Code



Students do not wear school uniforms in PEI Public Schools.

Students are not permitted to wear clothing with any messages or images which are profane or offensive to others. Clothing should not promote illegal or immoral activity. This includes pictures of fighting, weapons, drugs, alcohol symbols, etc. Students should wear clothing that is appropriate for a school setting. Please note: exposure of too much skin may

also be seen as inappropriate. Do not wear short skirts, tank-tops, low cut shirts, etc.

Personal hygiene is strongly recommended out of respect for themselves and others. Children are expected to wash every day and to wear clean clothes.

The use of deodorant is highly recommended; however, *No Highly Scented Products, please!* The use of perfumes and colognes is prohibited in schools and buses.

Remember that the temperature gets very cold in the winter and students are expected to play outdoors at recess and before and after school, except when it is raining or temperatures are extremely low. Make sure that your child is dressed for the weather. This includes: winter boots, snow-pants or wind-pants, a heavy jacket, mittens or gloves, a scarf, and a winter hat. It is also a good idea, for Elementary students, to have an extra set of dry clothes at school for wet days.

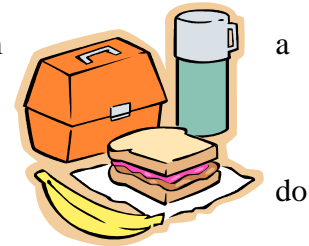
Breakfast Program

In Elementary and Intermediate schools, a nutritious breakfast may be available to students at no cost. Research has shown that students learn better when they have eaten in the mornings. Check with your school to see if this is available as it is not available at every school. Students should be in school 15-30 minutes before classes start.



Lunch

Elementary school children are not permitted to leave the school property without permission from parent. Some children who walk to school sometimes walk home for lunch but only if a parent/guardian will be home at that time. Students who wish to do this, must have written permission to do so. Otherwise, children must bring lunch from home or buy lunch according to the school lunch schedule. This is different at each school.



Lunch is eaten in the classroom and should be a nutritious meal. This includes: fruits, vegetables, crackers and cheese, a sandwich or left-over supper from the night before, juice, water, or milk, etc. Remember to wrap food properly to avoid messy accidents. You should check with each teacher to see if there are microwave or refrigerator services in the classroom. If there is food that must stay cool, you can freeze a juice box or bottle of water the night before and put it in the lunch box for food to stay cool. Try to pack a lunch that you know your child will like. If they don't like it, it will be wasted. Remind children to bring containers home. There is a snack time for Elementary school students. This is usually mid-way through the morning and is a great chance for children to get energy between breakfast and lunch. It is expected that students bring a snack. This is only something small like an apple, yogurt, or granola bar and juice, for example. This is not lunch time as it is usually only 5-10 minutes long. Students will then go outside for 'recess' which is another 10 - 15 minutes. At recess (mid-morning) and after lunch, students go outside to play until class resumes. School staff will supervise them in the school yard.

Intermediate/High schools have a cafeteria where students can eat their lunch from home or they can buy their lunch. There are microwaves in the cafeteria. At some schools, students in grade 8+ are allowed to leave school property for lunch if they wish but they are not allowed to loiter in the classrooms, washrooms, or hallways during lunch break. They are to be in a designated area like the playground, the gymnasium, the library, or the music room.

*Please note that most schools in PEI are peanut free as some students have very severe allergies to nuts and will get very sick or die if they eat or are exposed to food containing even small amounts of nuts. This also includes the aroma or scent of nuts. To ensure safety of these students, many schools adopt a ***nut-free*** policy. Please be aware of the food you send to school with your children. There is to be no peanut products as ingredients or in preparation of food. This includes peanut oil in cooking. Please check the ingredients list on the product box before purchasing.

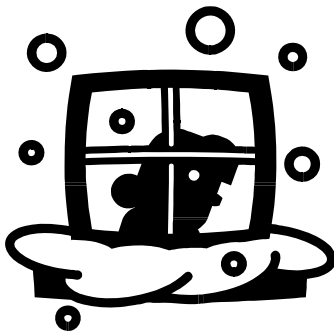


Physical Education (Gym)

Students are required to wear gym clothing (comfortable shorts, pants, t-shirt, etc.) and sneakers (running shoes) in gym class. If your child does not have gym shoes, he or she will be required to go bare feet for safety reasons. In some cases, not having proper clothing may result in points being deducted from the final grade.

Please note: Elementary schools do not have changing areas for students; therefore, it is recommended that they wear their gym clothes to school on gym days. See class schedule for gym days.

Bad Weather (School Closures/Delays)



In the winter time, schools in PEI are sometimes closed or delayed due to bad weather conditions. Prince Edward Island may have several school closures every year because of snowy conditions. Decisions about school closures or delays are made by the designated School Boards.

Local radio stations inform the public about these decisions. If no snow has fallen and it is a sunny day, there is no need to listen or check, however, on stormy days or *extremely* cold days listen to *local* radio for announcements. Don't assume, however, that school is cancelled because it has snowed. *Most of the time, there will be school.* You should listen to **local radio stations** if you feel that there is reason for school to be cancelled.

Here are some radio stations in Charlottetown:



- 93.1 FM—Magic 93
- 96.1 FM—CBC
- 100.3 FM—Ocean
- 105.5 FM—KRock

Please note: there is **no Charlottetown or PEI television news in the mornings** and only *Charlottetown/PEI news* will give you the accurate information for Charlottetown/PEI schools. You may also choose to consult the following CBC website for up-to-date school closures: <http://www.cbc.ca/pei/features/stormwatch/>

Remember, *Charlottetown, Cornwall and Stratford schools all belong to the Eastern School District*. Please make sure to listen for **Eastern School District** even if your child’s school has *West* in its name like West Kent or West Royalty.

You will listen for: “*All schools in the Eastern School District are CLOSED for the day*” OR, in the event of a delay, “*All schools in the Eastern School District are DELAYED by one (1) or two (2) hours*”. A delay will mean that regular school activity will happen the same, just 1 or 2 hours later. (An 8:15am bus will be 9:15am and a 9:00am start for classes will be a 10:00am start, etc.) The day will still end at the regular time.

They will, sometimes, announce cancellations or delays for the whole Island or all School Boards together. This can be confusing. They might say “All PEI schools...” or “All schools in the Eastern, Western, and French School Districts are...” Cancellations or delays will be announced by 7:00am on all local radio stations and they might tell you to listen again at 8:00 for more information. This might happen if they can’t decide what to do at 7:00am. They do speak fast so you will have to listen carefully.

Further information on school closure *policies* can be found on the Eastern School Board website. The link is as follows: <http://www.edu.pe.ca/esd/pdf/storms.pdf>

There have been occasions where schools have been forced to close during the school day in order to get students home before the weather becomes too severe. If the school should have to close early, parents will not be telephoned, therefore the arrangements for your child must be in place. You cannot wait to hear of a closure to make arrangements; therefore, it is

essential that each family has made arrangements for their children ***in advance*** so that they will be cared for if the bus drops them off before the end of the school day. Please make sure your children understand the arrangements for your family in the event of school closing early. Some of these arrangements could include having your child dropped off at the house of a family member, your work, etc.. If you have not made other arrangements, your children will be dropped off at home, or they will be walking home as usual (only at a different time); therefore it is important that someone is at home. Early closures will also be announced on the local radio stations. If you have not made arrangements you will have to do so. Please communicate this to the school.

****If your child's school belongs to the Western School Board or La Commission scolaire de langue française, you should listen for "Western School Board or French School Board school closures" on morning radio announcements or look for your respective school board's announcements on the CBC website that is island wide. <http://www.cbc.ca/pei/features/stormwatch/>**

Personal Belongings

Elementary school students must keep a pair of indoor shoes at school that they put on when they get to school. We recommend that these shoes be their gym shoes to minimize the number of shoes taken to school, and to ensure safety in the hallways in case of wet floors. Students will be provided with a compartment or a hook where they will keep belongings such as a jacket, boots or outdoor shoes, lunch box, etc.

Intermediate and High school students will be assigned a locker for safe storage of belongings like jackets and books. Keep the locker locked and the combination number secret. It is quite common/normal for 2 students to share lockers because of the small number of lockers assigned to each class.



Other Suggestions

Consider how to help your child get to know the neighborhood and places where he or she can play safely. It is also a good idea for you to get to know your neighbors so your child can see you making friends. This may also be a good idea for security reasons. You are your child's best role model. Generally, children do what they see you do. Talk to your child about their new friends and learn their names. When your child wants to invite a friend to your home, contact his or her parents to make arrangements. You should get to know the parents too, when possible.



Talk with your child or children about safety and what you, the parent/guardian, expect of them in case of emergency or change of plans. In Canada, families are encouraged to map out an escape route in their home and to decide on a meeting place once out of the house in case of fire. Fire/smoke detectors should be installed and batteries checked often. Many apartments, not all, have these already installed. They should be checked too. It is also recommended that each home have a fire-extinguisher.

Your family should know where the emergency phone numbers are kept. There is a list inside the telephone book on the first page. You could post these numbers on your refrigerator. You should also know how to get to the hospital in case of an emergency. *Remember, dialing 911 is only for emergencies!*

Visit community programs such as libraries or take your child to weekend and after school activities in the community. Many are free. For younger children, visit *drop-in centers, parenting centers* and *parent-child centers*. For older children, visit recreation centers. The school office staff or the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada *ISL team* can tell you where these community programs are located.



Accompany your child to the school playground after school so he or she can play with friends. If you are interested in sports or recreation activities for your children, please let us (the ISL team) know as we can arrange for activities, as well as possible funding depending on your economic or financial need.

You are the parent/guardian and, therefore, have the authority. YOU make the final decisions for your children. It is important to set rules for your children, for example, a regular bedtime. Try to let children make choices for themselves but let the child know if you don't agree with those choices. It is recommended that you find other ways to discipline your children as it is frowned upon (not good), and sometimes illegal, to use physical discipline in Canada. When a school staff member observes signs that someone may be abusing, mistreating or neglecting a child, or if a student reports that something bad is happening to him or her, the law requires the teacher to inform the organization in your community that is responsible for protecting children (called the 'Children's Aid Society' or 'Child and Family Services').



The Immigrant Student Liaison (ISL) Program

The ISL Program is a branch within the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada. The program offers the following supports to Immigrant students:

Needs Assessment

During the initial intake process, the ISL Program worker will request information about your children's previous schooling and current demographics in order to inform you of the possible school and grade your children may attend. They will also set up an appointment with the Department of Education's EAL Reception Centre for an EAL assessment, as well as a date and time for the ISL orientation presentation.

Orientation

Upon arrival to Canada, families will be invited to attend an information session on the PEI Public School System before the children start school. This will explain routines, rules and regulations, and policies. Families will also learn about what is expected of them and about what they can expect from the schools. ISL Program workers will also help you with the registration process.

On-site Schedule and International Friendship Groups (IFG)

There are thirteen schools in the Charlottetown area that are active in keeping regular communication with the ISL Program. There are set times each week when the ISL Program workers will visit each of these schools. This allows concerns to be expressed and gives the ISL workers a regular opportunity to check up on students. Once per month, for about one hour the ISL Program team, with the school, offers an International Friendship Group (IFG). This will take place during the school day. It will give the students the opportunity to meet one another and to realize they are not alone in their adaptation to a new environment. IFGs promote friendship, multiculturalism, cooperation, and fun.



Advocacy

The ISL Program team works as advocates. They will act on behalf of the child, the parent, or the teacher as they are a liaison between sources. The ISL Program team has the best interest of the child in mind but will not make decisions for you or your children.

Cross-Cultural Interpretation

There are often cultural differences in behavior and attitude when a new student joins a new school. These differences sometimes lead to confusion and misunderstandings. The ISL Program workers try to reduce these incidents by raising awareness and interpreting cultural differences among students, parents, and school staff.

Extra Help

When a family arrives in Canada from another country, there are many situations in which they may require assistance. The PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada stands as a support agency providing help through many different service programs to Immigrant families. The Immigrant Student Liaison Program fulfills this mandate by offering help and support to our school age clientele. The ISL Program team will do everything possible to help make the transition into school an easy one.

Summer Program

The Immigrant Student Liaison Program offers a free-of-charge children's program when school is closed for the summer. The program provides education on the City of Charlottetown and summer events in PEI. There are two groups that attend, each, twice per week. It is a full day program that is supervised by the ISL Program team members. Students participate in basic EAL lessons, recreational activities, and fun outings. This program assists students with language development and provides an opportunity for many friendships to grow.

The Purpose of the ISL Program is to help immigrants students to become successfully integrated into the PEI system.

Charlottetown Area Schools -This is only a small list of schools in Charlottetown. You may refer to the Department of Education website for further information or listings

Department of Education — www.edu.pe.ca

Spring Park Elementary - www.edu.pe.ca/springpark/
West Kent Elementary - www.westkent.net/
Prince Street Elementary - www.edu.pe.ca/princestreet/
Saint Jeans Elementary - www.edu.pe.ca/stjean/
West Royalty Elementary - www.edu.pe.ca/westroyalty/
Glen Stewart Elementary - <http://www.edu.pe.ca/glenstewart/>
Sherwood Elementary - <http://www.edu.pe.ca/sherwood/>
Parkdale Elementary - <http://www.edu.pe.ca/parkdale/>
Stonepark Intermediate - <http://www.edu.pe.ca/stonepark/>
Birchwood Intermediate - www.edu.pe.ca/birchwood/
Queen Charlotte Intermediate - www.edu.pe.ca/queencharlotte/
Colonel Gray High - www.edu.pe.ca/gray/
Charlottetown Rural High - <http://www.edu.pe.ca/rural/>

*For French-first language schools (there are 6), visit 'La Commission scolaire de langue française' at www.edu.pe.ca/cslf/nosecoles.html -for example:
Francois Buote - www.edu.pe.ca/francois/
Ecole Evangeline - www.edu.pe.ca/evangeline/

Charlottetown Area Kindergartens —

There are many private and publicly funded kindergartens and child-care centers in Charlottetown. Kindergarten in Prince Edward Island is an integral part of the early childhood education system.

The following web-page will link you to the Provincial Government's website on Kindergarten and Child-Care Centers. Here you will find information on the different types of kindergartens, as well as names, locations, and special programs dealing with early childhood education.
<http://www.gov.pe.ca/educ/index.php3?number=79769&lang=E>

Websites

Here is a list of websites that may be of interest to you and your family:

- www.peianc.com - this is the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada website. This will tell you about the different programs available through the Association and it provides many useful links dealing with settlement, immigration, public transit, volunteering, education, etc .
- www.edu.pe.ca - this is the official website of the PEI Department of Education. It is a provincial government website which lists links for policies, curriculums, supports and services, and directories of staff at the department level.
- www.edu.pe.ca/esd - this is the official website for the Eastern School District. It will tell you about schools, policies, support for parents and students, as well as links to websites of PEI schools.
- www.cic.ga.ca - this is the national website for Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Here you can find information you may need for anything immigration related.
- www.charlottetown.pe.ca - this is the official municipal website for the city of Charlottetown. Here you will find news and notices, festivals and events, information on public transit, accommodations and attractions, health services, parking, business opportunities, history and geography, parks and recreation programs, and laws.
- www.edu.pe.ca/wsb - this is the official website for the Western School Board. It will tell you about schools, policies, support for parents and students, as well as links to websites of PEI schools.

NOTES

YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL INFORMATION

Child Name: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Telephone Number: _____

Homeroom Teacher Name: _____

Grade: _____

Principal Name: _____

Vice Principal Name: _____

School Bus Number:

Morning _____ Afternoon _____



YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL INFORMATION

Child Name: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Telephone Number: _____

Homeroom Teacher Name: _____

Grade: _____

Principal Name: _____

Vice Principal Name: _____

School Bus Number:

Morning _____ Afternoon _____



**YOUR HOME/PERSONAL
INFORMATION**

Parent/Guardian's Full Names:

Children's Full Names:

Home Address: _____

Day Telephone Number: _____

Evening Telephone Number: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact Name and telephone number:

Safe Family Meeting Place in case of emergency:

**PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada
902-628-6009 or www.peianc.com**

