



NovaBridge School

Ontario Canada | BSID# 887376 | Grades 1-8

FREE GUIDE

Get Your Child

Canada-Ready

Before You Land

A Parent's Guide to the Ontario School System

for Families Relocating to Canada

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS GUIDE:

- ✓ How the Canadian school system is structured
- ✓ What grade your child will enter based on their age
- ✓ What the Ontario curriculum covers from Grade 1 to 8
- ✓ How to start your child's Canadian education before you arrive
- ✓ A step-by-step checklist for relocating families

novabridgeschool.com

info@novabridgeschool.com | +1 (289) 644-5751



A NOTE TO YOU

You Are Already Doing the Right Thing

Planning your family's move to Canada takes courage and preparation. One of the most important decisions you face is your child's education. The good news is that Canada's school system is structured, high-quality, and accessible. And the even better news is that you do not have to wait until you land to get your child started.

This guide gives you a clear, honest picture of how the Ontario school system works, what your child will learn at each grade level, and how families exactly like yours are preparing their children for Canada from thousands of kilometers away.

Who This Guide Is For

- Parents who are planning to move to Canada and want their children academically prepared before arrival.
- Families currently living outside Canada who want their child enrolled in a certified Ontario school right now.
- Parents who want to understand what the Canadian education system expects before making any decisions.

Ontario is Canada's most popular destination for newcomers. Its school system runs from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12 and follows a curriculum set by the Ontario Ministry of Education. Every registered school in Ontario, whether in-person or online, follows this same curriculum. That consistency is exactly what makes an Ontario education recognized and respected worldwide.

NovaBridge School is a registered Ontario school (BSID# 887376).

We offer the full Ontario curriculum from Grade 1 to Grade 8, fully online, to students anywhere in the world. Your child can start today, from your home country, and be fully on track with the Ontario curriculum by the time you arrive.



SECTION 1

How the Canadian School System Is Structured

Canada does not have a single national school system. Each province manages its own education. Ontario's system is one of the most structured and internationally recognized in the country. Here is how it breaks down.

Junior Kindergarten (JK) Age 4	Optional but widely attended. Focus on play-based learning, social skills, and early literacy.
Senior Kindergarten (SK) Age 5	Builds on JK. Children develop foundational reading, writing, and number skills.
Elementary School: Grades 1 to 6 Ages 6 to 12	Core subjects include Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Arts, Health, and Physical Education.
Middle School: Grades 7 and 8 Ages 12 to 14	Students begin subject specialization. Core subjects continue with added depth and critical thinking.
Secondary School: Grades 9 to 12 Ages 14 to 18	Leads to the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), recognized by universities worldwide.

Key Facts Every Parent Should Know

- Ontario schools operate from September to June each year.
- The school day runs approximately 5.5 to 6 hours.
- All instruction is in English. French immersion options are available.
- The curriculum is set by the Ontario Ministry of Education and is the same for all registered schools.
- Registered online schools deliver the same curriculum as physical schools.
- Grades are reported through standardized report cards twice a year.



SECTION 2

What Grade Will My Child Enter?

Ontario schools place children based on their age as of December 31 of the school year. The table below shows the standard grade placement. Keep in mind that teachers and principals assess each child individually, so final placement may vary.

Grade	Age	Key Subjects	What to Expect
JK	Age 4	Early Learning	Play-based foundation in literacy and numeracy.
SK	Age 5	Early Learning	Builds on JK. Prepares for Grade 1 formal learning.
Grade 1	Age 6	Language, Math, Science, Arts	First year of formal full curriculum.
Grade 2	Age 7	Language, Math, Science, Arts	Reading fluency and basic writing skills.
Grade 3	Age 8	Language, Math, Science, Social Studies	EQAO standardized assessment year.
Grade 4	Age 9	All core subjects	Transition to more independent learning.
Grade 5	Age 10	All core subjects	Critical thinking introduced across subjects.
Grade 6	Age 11	All core subjects	EQAO assessment year. Preparation for middle school.
Grade 7	Age 12	All core + specialist subjects	Middle school begins. Deeper subject focus.
Grade 8	Age 13	All core + specialist subjects	Transition year. Prepares for high school.

What is EQAO?

EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) is a standardized provincial assessment given to students in Grade 3 and Grade 6. It tests reading, writing, and mathematics. Results help parents and teachers understand how a student is progressing relative to provincial standards. It is not a pass-or-fail test. It is a progress indicator.

If your child joins NovaBridge School, their teacher will prepare them fully for EQAO if and when it applies.



SECTION 3

What the Ontario Curriculum Covers: Grade 1 to 8

The Ontario curriculum is built around six core subject areas from Grade 1 to Grade 8. Every registered school in Ontario, including NovaBridge School, delivers all six. Here is what your child will study at each level.

Language Arts

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Grades 1-3 | Learning to read and write. Phonics, spelling, basic grammar, oral communication, and simple text comprehension. |
| Grades 4-6 | Reading chapter books and non-fiction. Writing paragraphs, reports, and creative pieces. Grammar and vocabulary expansion. |
| Grades 7-8 | Literary analysis, research writing, persuasive essays, media literacy, and advanced grammar. |

Mathematics

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Grades 1-3 | Counting, addition, subtraction, basic multiplication, shapes, measurement, and patterns. |
| Grades 4-6 | Multiplication and division, fractions, decimals, geometry, data management, and basic algebra concepts. |
| Grades 7-8 | Integers, ratios, percentages, linear equations, geometry proofs, and statistical analysis. |

Science and Technology

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Grades 1-3 | Plants and animals, matter and materials, energy in our lives, and the natural environment. |
| Grades 4-6 | Habitats, light and sound, pulleys and gears, rocks and minerals, human body systems. |
| Grades 7-8 | Pure substances vs mixtures, optics, heat, cells, biodiversity, and form and function. |

Social Studies / History / Geography

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Grades 1-3 | Family and community, local heritage, Canada and the world at a basic level. |
| Grades 4-6 | Ontario communities, early Canada, Indigenous peoples, physical geography of Canada. |



Grades 7-8 Canadian history from colonization to confederation, world geography, global citizenship.

Arts (Visual, Music, Drama, Dance)

Grades 1-8 Creative expression, art history fundamentals, music literacy, performance basics, and media arts.

Health and Physical Education

Grades 1-8 Personal safety, nutrition, physical fitness, mental health, relationships, and human development.

NovaBridge Also Offers

- Advanced French Program: Full French language instruction as an additional subject.
- Arabic Program (Intermediate and Advanced): Maintaining your child's Arabic language skills alongside the Ontario curriculum.
- Gifted and IEP Program: Individualized programs for children with ADHD, dyslexia, colour blindness, and other learning differences.



SECTION 4

What Skills Ontario Schools Expect at Each Level

Many parents ask: "Is my child ready for the Canadian system?" The answer depends on where they are now. Here is a clear breakdown of what Ontario teachers expect at each stage, so you can assess your child honestly and plan accordingly.

Entering Grades 1-3

- Recognize and write all letters of the alphabet.
- Count to at least 100 and understand basic addition and subtraction.
- Follow simple instructions in English (or be in the process of learning English).
- Sit and focus for 20 to 30 minute learning blocks.
- Express ideas verbally and in simple written sentences.

Entering Grades 4-6

- Read independently for meaning and comprehension.
- Write organized paragraphs with a clear topic sentence.
- Multiply and divide whole numbers; understand basic fractions.
- Work independently on assigned tasks for extended periods.
- Use basic research skills to find and record information.

Entering Grades 7-8

- Read and analyze a variety of text types including fiction and non-fiction.
- Write structured multi-paragraph essays and reports.
- Solve problems involving fractions, decimals, percentages, and basic algebra.
- Think critically and support opinions with evidence.
- Manage time across multiple subjects and assignments.



What If My Child Has Gaps?

This is completely normal. Children coming from different educational systems often have strengths in some areas and gaps in others. Ontario teachers are experienced with newcomer students. Schools conduct an intake assessment and create a learning plan tailored to each child.

At NovaBridge School, our self-paced model means your child works at the level they are actually at, not the level the calendar says they should be at. Teachers monitor progress chapter by chapter and step in when your child needs support.



SECTION 5

Your Options for Starting Before You Arrive

Most families wait until they land in Canada before thinking about school enrollment. That is understandable. But it means your child loses months of learning time and often enters a classroom behind their peers. Here are your realistic options.

Option 1 **Wait Until You Arrive**

REACTIVE

- Your child enrolls in a local public school after you settle.
- No preparation required in advance.
- Your child may feel behind academically and socially on day one.
- Teachers cannot provide individual catch-up support for all subjects.

Option 2 **Use Local Tutors or Homeschooling Materials**

PARTIAL

- You hire tutors or use online resources to teach your child at home.
- More preparation than waiting, but no official Ontario curriculum.
- No teacher interaction or progress tracking.
- Your child's learning is not officially recorded or recognized.

Option 3 **Enroll in a Registered Ontario Online School**

RECOMMENDED

- Your child follows the exact Ontario curriculum right now, from your home country.
- A qualified Ontario teacher monitors progress and provides direct support.
- Learning is self-paced and works across any time zone.
- Your child arrives in Canada already on track with the Ontario curriculum.
- Official school record begins before your family even lands.



SECTION 6

How NovaBridge School Works Across Time Zones

NovaBridge School is a fully asynchronous online school. That means your child learns at their own pace, on their own schedule, from any location in the world. Here is exactly what that looks like in practice.

1

Your Child Accesses Their Courses Online

After enrollment, your child receives login access to their personalized learning portal. All lessons, activities, and assessments are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are no fixed class times. Your child works when it suits your family's schedule.

2

A Qualified Ontario Teacher Monitors Their Progress

A dedicated NovaBridge teacher reviews your child's progress as they complete each chapter. If your child struggles or has questions, the teacher responds directly. This is not automated. It is a real teacher who knows your child's work.

3

Teacher Interaction Happens When It Counts

Direct teacher contact occurs when your child needs help, when they complete a chapter review, and at assessment time. This keeps your child supported without requiring fixed daily schedules that do not work across time zones.

4

Progress Is Tracked and Reported

You receive regular progress reports as your child moves through the curriculum. This gives you full visibility as a parent and ensures your child stays on track for their grade level.

5

Your Child Builds an Official School Record

Because NovaBridge is a registered Ontario school, your child's learning is officially recorded. When you arrive in Canada, this record transfers to their new school. Your child does not start from zero.



Tuition That Makes Sense

NovaBridge School's annual tuition starts at CAD 3,300 for the standard Ontario curriculum with French. For international students, a CAD 1,500 annual fee applies, bringing the total to CAD 4,800. Compare that to Ontario private schools which charge between CAD 8,000 and CAD 75,000 per year. Flexible 4-installment payment plans at 0% interest are available.



SECTION 7

Your Relocation Checklist: Education Edition

Use this checklist to stay organized as you prepare your child's Canadian education. You can start working through this list right now, before you leave your home country.

Before You Leave Your Home Country

- Determine your child's Ontario grade placement using the age chart in this guide.
- Review the Ontario curriculum expectations for your child's grade level.
- Assess your child's current skills against the expectations in Section 4.
- Identify any subject gaps that need attention before arrival.
- Research registered Ontario online schools for pre-arrival enrollment.
- Enroll your child in a certified Ontario school so their learning begins now.
- Gather your child's existing school records and have them translated if needed.

After Enrollment in an Ontario Online School

- Set a consistent daily learning schedule that works for your time zone.
- Introduce your child to their teacher and establish communication.
- Monitor your child's weekly progress through the parent portal.
- Identify extracurricular options (French, Arabic, math enrichment, etc.).
- Track chapter completions and teacher feedback regularly.

When You Arrive in Canada

- Contact the local Ontario school board to arrange a transfer or continued enrollment.
- Share your child's official school record from their online Ontario school.
- Request an intake assessment if transitioning to an in-person school.
- Review your child's first Ontario report card and discuss it with the teacher.



Ready to Get Your Child Started?

Your child does not have to wait until you land in Canada to begin their Ontario education. NovaBridge School is open to students worldwide, right now.

What happens when you enroll:

- ✓ Your child receives immediate access to their Ontario curriculum
- ✓ A qualified teacher is assigned to monitor their progress
- ✓ You receive full parent access to track learning in real time
- ✓ Your child builds an official Ontario school record from day one

novabridgeschool.com/enrollment

+1 (289) 644-5751 | info@novabridgeschool.com

Ontario Canada | BSID# 887376 | Grades 1 to 8

This guide was prepared by NovaBridge School. All curriculum information is based on Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines current as of 2026.