

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE TO THE BOARD

May 14, 2024, Public Board Meeting



Early Learning and Child Care Update

Early Learning and Child Care is a sub-department within the Curriculum Department. It is led by Nicole Driscoll, the District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC). The Ministry of Education and Child Care provides the funding to support the District Principal of ELCC position. Through this position, it's intended that the District Principal of ELCC:

- Support schools and the district in deepening their understanding of Early Learning and Child Care on school grounds and establish growing, strong working relationships with early years' service providers on school grounds.
- Build and strengthen relationships between the district, schools, and community.
- Support integrated planning for increased access to affordable, quality child care.
- Increase the capacity of the district to expand access to affordable, quality child care on school grounds.

Our Early Learning and Child Care Team at Learning Services

- Nicole Driscoll – District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care
- Laura Callaghan (Management) – Early Learning and Child Care Coordinator
- Karen Allan (CTA) – Early Literacy Coordinator
- Amber Mothus (CUPE) – Early Years Family Navigator

Goals of the Early Learning and Child Care Team:

Goal 1: Increase Early Years and Child Care communication – website creation, Facebook, Instagram

Goal 2: Establish Before After School Care in every elementary school by 2025.

Goal 3: Support early years transitions with increased opportunities for high quality, universal programming.

GOAL #1 UPDATE - Increase Early Years and Child Care communication

With our goal to increase communication we have created the [SD33 Early Learning and Child Care Website](#) and a detailed Early Learning and Child Care calendar of events. We have regular updates on our [ELCC Facebook](#) and [Instagram Page](#).

A screenshot of the SD33 Early Learning and Child Care website. The header includes the Chilliwack School District logo and navigation links for 'Ages 0-5', 'Ages 4+', 'Before & After School Care', 'Calendar', and 'Parent Resources'. The main banner features a group of diverse young children running in a park, with the text 'Welcome to Early Learning' and 'Chilliwack School District'. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'SD33 Early Learning and Child Care' with a brief description of the district's vision and services. To the right of this text is a photograph of a woman sitting on the floor reading a book to a young child. Below the text is a 'Contact Our Early Learning and Child Care Team' section with a bulleted list of staff members: Nicole Driscoll (District Principal), Laura Callaghan (Coordinator), and Amber Mothus (Family Navigator).

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE TO THE BOARD

May 14, 2024, Public Board Meeting



GOAL #2 UPDATE - Establish Before After School Care in every elementary school by 2025

At the heart of our goal, to increase before and after school care sites, is the importance of working with our community partners, agencies, and families. Given the fast population growth of Chilliwack and the extreme shortage of child care spaces, it's imperative that we work together to support expansion in child care. Our team is grateful to be part of local committees to support this great work together.

Partnerships With Community Agencies

Our SD33 ELCC Team chairs two important committees to support the work and growth of early years in our community. Given we are currently the second fastest growing community in Canada, it is important we continue to advocate for services and support our youngest members of our community.

- Chilliwack Child Youth – Early Years Committee: The CYC Early Years is a Sub Committee of the Chilliwack Child & Youth Committee. We represent 20 different agencies and organizations. Our vision is to foster community participation and to support a service delivery system that enables all children to thrive.
- Chilliwack Child Care Action Plan Committee – This committee was created in response to the child care needs presented in the Chilliwack Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy (2019). The committee consists of representation from SD33, Fraser Health, Ministry of Children and Families, The City of Chilliwack, Fraser Valley Child Development Center, Stól:ō Nation, Chilliwack Child Care and Resource and Referral and BC Aboriginal Child Care Society. Together our goal is to act upon the identified action items from the Child Care Needs Assessment.

Through our vision of creating a continuum of care that is inclusive, accessible, reliable, and universal, we are close to fulfilling our goal of establishing Before & After School Care at every elementary school by 2025.

Over the last two years our SD33 Early Learning and Child Care Team has:

- Opened 6 Before/After School Child Care sites (Central, Watson, Stitó:s, Vedder, Robertson and Strathcona Elementary) – 204 child care spaces for school age care
- Opened our first Early Learning and Child Care Hub – Robertson Elementary
- Opened 2 Just B4 Preschools (Robertson and Watson Elementary)
- Hired 23 Before/After School Care Assistants
- Hired 3 Early Childhood Educators (Central, Watson, and Robertson) and 1 Early Childhood Education Assistant (Watson)
- Hired an Early Learning and Child Care Coordinator
- Created a call-out roster of 15 casual employees to support our Before After School Care Assistants and Early Childhood Educator absences – consistent and reliable care for families




SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE TO THE BOARD

May 14, 2024, Public Board Meeting



Expansion of Early Learning and Child Care from 2021 to 2024

School	2021/22 Early Learning & Child Care				2023/24 Early Learning & Child Care			
	0-5 Drop-in Programs	Preschool	0-5 Child Care	BASC School Age	0-5 Drop-in Programs	Preschool	0-5 Child Care	BASC School Age
Bernard	StrongStart			YMCA	StrongStart			YMCA
Central	StrongStart	Family Place	Community School		StrongStart	Family Place	Community School	School District
Cheam								
Cultus Lake	StrongStart			For-Profit	StrongStart		Community School (Sept. 2024)	Community School (Sept. 2024)
E. Cwk				For-Profit				For-Profit
Evans				For-Profit				For-Profit
Leary IAT				YMCA				YMCA
Greendale								School District (Sept. 2024)
LME	StrongStart	For-Profit		YMCA	StrongStart	For-profit		YMCA
McCammion	StrongStart			For-Profit	StrongStart			For-Profit
Promontory				Community School				Community School
Robertson					Family Navigator Coffee & Connect	Just B4		School District
Rosedale	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School
Sardis								
Stito:s	Not built							YMCA
Strathcona	StrongStart				StrongStart			YMCA
Tyson								
Unsworth	StrongStart				StrongStart			School District (Sept. 2024)
Vedder					Family Navigator Coffee & Connect	Just B4 – opening Summer 2024		School District
Watson	StrongStart				StrongStart	Just B4		YMCA
Yarrow	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School	Community School

-  Operated and staffed by SD33
-  Operated and staffed by a non-profit or Community School Association
-  Operated and staffed by a for-profit organization

GOAL #3 Update - Support early years transitions with increased opportunities for high quality, universal programming

As the Ministry of Education expanded to include Child Care, we have broadened and enhanced our early learning programming and family support initiatives. A notable achievement of this expansion is the establishment of our Early Learning and Child Care Hubs at Robertson, Vedder, and Central Elementary. These Hubs provide a variety of services and programs, such as the Early Years Family Navigator, Just B4 Preschool, Parent-Child Mother Goose, Parent workshops, immunization clinics, and Before and After School Care.

The Early Years Family Navigator conducts drop-in sessions, offering families the chance to participate in child-led activities, access community resources, and receive parenting education and support while navigating health and social services systems.

At Watson and Robertson Elementary, the Just B4 Preschool program, led by a certified Early Childhood Educator, implements the BC Early Learning Framework, and emphasizes the social and emotional well-

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE TO THE BOARD

May 14, 2024, Public Board Meeting



being of children. Through play-based activities and close collaboration with elementary schools, the program ensures a smooth transition into kindergarten for children and their families. Additionally, our consistent StrongStart programs, led by certified Early Childhood Educators, offer parent participation programming for children aged 0-5 at Cultus, Unsworth, Watson, Bernard, McCammon, Central, Strathcona, and Little Mountain Elementary Schools.

To support the high-quality instruction of these programs, we have regular professional development and staff learning sessions led by Karen Allan, our Early Literacy Coordinator, Laura Callaghan, our trained ECE Early Learning and Child Care Coordinator, and Nicole Driscoll, our District Principal of ELCC. On top of our SD33 Staff Professional Development sessions, we also facilitate two initiatives funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to support community and school district collaboration and learning:

- Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten (SEYY2KT) – funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care This initiative offers opportunities for the school district and community partners to meet six times over the year and work together in support of young children and their families. Our Chilliwack Early Years Fair is an example of one event created through this initiative.
- Changing Possibilities for Young Children (CP4YC) – funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care
This initiative supports teachers, early childhood educators and child care professionals to work together and learn from each other in support of social emotional well-being in young children.

Finally, involving families is integral to support positive transitions from Pre-K to Kindergarten. Our SD33 ELCC Team continues to strive to create opportunities for families, community partners, schools, and the district to collaborate and create safe, supported, and connected relationships. From birth, we initiate these relationships through our Books for Babies initiative, spearheaded by Karen Allan our Early Literacy Coordinator. Schools further support positive transitions to Kindergarten through Ready, Set, Learn, and Kinderfair events, providing families with valuable opportunities to connect with their preschooler's future neighborhood school.

From the B.C. Early Learning Framework:

"Families are the first teachers, the primary caregivers, and the knowledge holders of their children. Families have the most important role in promoting their children's well-being and learning."
(B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care, 2019, p. 16)

