

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE TO THE BOARD

September 17, 2024, Public Board Meeting



Joint Statement On Safe, Caring And Inclusive Schools, September 2024

On Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024 Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care; BC School Trustees Association; BC School Superintendents Association; BC Association of School Business Officials; BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association; BC Teachers' Federation; CUPE BC; BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils; Federation of Independent School Associations; First Nations Education Steering Committee; First Nations Schools Association; and Métis Nation British Columbia released the following statement about safe, caring and inclusive schools:

“All of B.C.’s provincial education partners for K-12 schools, joined by Minister Rachna Singh, are standing together in solidarity to ensure every school is a place where all students feel welcome, included and respected in a safe learning environment, while being fully and completely themselves.”

“There is no room for any type of discrimination in our schools. The B.C. Human Rights Code protects B.C. students from discrimination based on Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age. Every school in B.C. should be a place where everyone is welcome, and no student should feel unsafe or excluded.”

“We want to recognize the work being done to ensure all students and staff are protected from discrimination at school and acknowledge there is still much more work to be done. Building an education system that is welcoming for all of B.C.’s K-12 students, staff and families is critical with a focus on student success and well-being at the center. As provincial education partners, we stand unified in this commitment.”

In May, the Province announced new legislation that allows us to activate safe access zones to protect schools from harmful disruptions, like protests. These access zones were repealed at the end of the school year (June 30, 2024). Based on the disruptive behaviour that occurred throughout the last school year and that persists, and on **August 27th, 2024, once again access zones at all of B.C. K-12 public and independent schools are activated**, with a few limited exceptions, to help ensure all students and staff feel safe at school and can focus on learning.

Please find all the partner statements released in support of inclusion and diversity the last many years, including the statement released on September 3rd, 2024:

- [Joint statement on safe, caring, and inclusive schools](#) (September 2024)
- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023ECC0037-000856> (2023)
- <https://bcsta.org/statement-on-gender-identity-education-protests/> (2023)
- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022ECC0075-001396> (2022)
- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016EDUC0089-001625> (2016)

As a summary, here is a quote from a recent paper written by OECD regarding the notion of Human Flourishing: “while we yearn for a peaceful planet, the dehumanizing of groups in a culture of dominance is what has led, and continues to lead, to the perpetuation of conflict and the precariousness of peace.

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That is why it is necessary now to think in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) – three distinctive dimensions of this vision of human flourishing. This is not just about equity in outcomes, access or inputs. This is fundamentally about what is valued and how: whose history? Which values? Which cultural norms? It is about celebrating diversity and practicing inclusivity – embracing the differences not just of race, gender, LGBTQ; but also, of neurodiversity.”

Enrolment Update September 16, 2024

ANALYSIS HEAD COUNT SEPTEMBER 16, 2024	
EXCLUDES CONTINUING EDUCATION & ALTERNATE EDUCATION HEAD COUNT	
HC SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2022 (K-12)	14,076
Change	445
HC SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2023 (K-12)	14,521
Change	458
HC SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2024 (K-12)	14,979
Percentage Increase HC 2022 to 2023	3.16%
Percentage Increase HC 2023 to 2024	3.15%

ANALYSIS FTE SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 (Excludes CE, ALT & DL)	
Budgeted FTE (Excludes CE and ALT)	15281.53
Current K-12 FTE (Excludes CE and ALT) As of Sep. 16, 2024	15256.47
DIFFERENCE (Increase or Decrease)	25.06

* We are still in the process of programming courses at High Schools, and we will make projections

On Monday, September 16, the student population in the District, excluding Alternate Students and Continuing Education Students, stood at 14,979. When factoring in the additional courses anticipated to be taken by students in grades 10-12, the projected full-time equivalent enrollment is estimated to exceed projected.

Summer School Update, 2024

The SD33 Summer Learning Program offered a variety of programs for students in and around Chilliwack during the month of July. Our Elementary and Middle School programs ran from July 2 to 12, while Secondary courses were offered from July 2 to 26.

Summer Learning by the Numbers

- 1032 Total Courses – 30% growth from 2023
- 88 Total Staff
 - 61 Teachers
 - 22 Education Assistants

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Chilliwack
School District

2024 Summer Learning New Course Offerings

- Performing Arts at Middle School
- Middle Level French Immersion Language Building
- ELL – English Language Learners Skill Building Grade 1 – 11
- Secondary Full-Credit Courses
 - English First Peoples 12 & English Studies 12
 - Social Justice 12
 - Life Sciences 11
 - Foundations & Pre-Calculus Math 10
 - Workplace Math 10
 - Social Studies 10
 - Science 10

Summer Learning Highlights

- Students from every school in SD33 participated
- Feeding Futures Food Program support at multiple sites
- Multiple Sites – CSS, CMS, Sqwa First Nation, Tzeachten First Nation, Sto:lo Grounds, Sardis Farm on Richardson Road, & several local parks or outdoor spaces
- SD33 Transportation – 4 busses running from the south to north plus from multiple locations to Sto: lo and field trips

Summer Learning Challenges

- Multiple Sites and shifting the culture around sharing spaces and resources
- Attendance – students and families that register but don't show and the physical reporting of attendance
- Hiring

Future Growth Areas

- Elementary French Immersion Language
- Secondary ADST & Outdoor Education Full Credit
- Expanding opportunities for our Grade 6 – 9 learners