

Public Schools in British Columbia

Elementary Education

- Elementary school is for students between 5-12 years.
- Kindergarten classes are offered in full day sessions.

Secondary Education

- Secondary schools are for students between 13-17 years.
- Most secondary schools run on a semester system. 1 semester is divided into 2 parts: Semester 1: September – January & Semester 2: February – June
- During every semester, students register in 4 classes that are held daily for about 70 minutes.

Post-Secondary Education

Continuing Education offers academic upgrading from basic literacy to high school completion. For further information please visit www.surreyschools.ca/AdultEducation/HighSchoolCompletion/Pages/default.aspx

Summer School

Summer school is an education program for elementary and secondary students during July and August.

Graduation Requirements

Upon graduation, students receive their Dogwood Diploma. Students must accumulate a minimum 80 credits throughout their grade 10-12 years: 48 required, 28 electives & 4 graduation portfolio credits.

Required credits are credits that you must take to graduate:

- Language Arts 10 (4 credits), 11 (4 credits) & 12 (4 credits)
- Social Studies 10 (4 credits) & Social Studies 11 or 12 (4 credits)
- Mathematics 10 (4 credits) and Mathematics 11 or 12 (4 credits)
- Science 10 (4 credits) and Science 11 or 12 (4 credits)
- Physical Education 10 (4 credits)
- Fine Arts and/or an Applied Skills 10, 11, or 12 (4 credits)
- Planning 10 (4 credits)

To graduate, all students must also take 5 Provincially examinable courses:

- Language Arts 10
- Science 10
- Mathematics 10
- Social Studies 11 or 12
- Language Arts 12

For more information on graduation requirements, please visit: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/graduation

Principals

Principals manage the different school programs.

Office Secretaries

The Office Secretary looks after the school's administrative duties and gives first aid to students who need it.

School Counsellors

School Counsellors are at the school to help, give resources and advise students, parents and teachers. They also help students solve their educational, career and personal problems.



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Teachers

Teachers help students fulfill their full potential through instruction and assistance:

- Elementary classroom teachers attend to the education of the same group of students throughout the entire school year. In secondary school, students have different teachers, designated for each subject.
- Learner Support Team teachers (LST) help those with learning needs, such as ELL.
- Hospital Homebound (HH) teachers help students who cannot come to school due to medical reasons. They collaborate with classroom teacher(s) and medical personnel to determine appropriate curriculum.
- Teacher Librarians help students find resources, such as books, internet sites, etc.
- Teachers of the Hearing & Visually Impaired work with hearing or visually impaired students, so that they can be a part of the regular classroom. Individual education plans (IEPs) are developed.
- Integration Support teachers help school staff develop individual education plans (IEPs), so that students can be part of the regular classroom.



Speech Language Therapists

Speech Language Therapists help students with communication difficulties.

School Psychologists

Psychologists help students overcome their mental, behavioural, developmental, and learning issues. They work to identify problems and develop a plan.

Support Staff

There are many others that work in schools, such as Special Education Assistants (SEA), Child & Youth Care Workers, Safe School Liaisons, Supervision Aides, Multicultural Workers and Custodians.

The standard school year begins in September and finishes in June. In December, there is a 2 week Winter Break and in March there is a 1 week Spring Break.

School Hours

- Elementary schools generally begin classes at 8:40am until 2:30pm.
 - Secondary schools generally run from 8:30am – 2:55pm.
- Please contact the school to find out its start and end time.



Surrey Meal Program

The Surrey Meal Program provides students of low income families with a nutritious lunch. This program is only available in select schools.

Professional Development Day (Pro-D Day)

A Pro-D Day is when school staff attend workshops and students do not come to school.

How do I find out about unexpected school closures?

Sometimes extreme weather conditions can cause school closures. Only cancellations or closures will be announced beginning at about 6:30 a.m. Information can be found at www.sd36.bc.ca or listen to the following radio stations: CKNW (980 AM), News 1130 (1130 AM), CBC Radio (690 AM), Red-FM (93.1 FM), Radio Punjab (cable/satellite), Fairchild Radio (1470 AM), CHMB (1320 AM).

School Fees

If parents cannot afford school fees, they can be subsidized.

What school fees am I expected to pay?

The district does not charge for any materials or activities that are required for students to successfully complete a course leading to graduation.

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The First Day of School

If you have any questions call or visit your Elementary school at the end of August between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm on weekdays. School locations and phone numbers can either be found in the telephone book or on the internet at <http://www.sd36.bc.ca/directory/schoolalpha.asp?letter=a>

Please confirm starting dates for all kindergarten students with your elementary school. On the first day of school, dismissal times can be different from regular dismissal times. For secondary schools the reporting times for grades 8-12 vary from school to school. Please check the school directory on the internet at <https://www.surreyschools.ca/K-12Schools/Pages/default.aspx> for your child's school website, which may have the times noted. You can also contact your school for further information.

Which schools have daycare/preschool facilities?

Please direct any questions or inquiries about daycare programs to Facility Rentals at 604-595-6084.

Preparing For the First Day of School

As well as determining starting times and dates, it is also very important to ensure that your child has his/her school supplies necessary for their specific grade.

How can I find out what school supplies my child needs?

Supply lists are sent home with students at the end of the previous school year. Some schools have their supply lists available online. You can visit the school directory at <https://www.surreyschools.ca/K-12Schools/AlphabeticalSchoolList/Pages/default.aspx> for links to individual school websites, or you can call your school a week before classes start.

How is the placement of students in classes determined?

A student's placement is determined by the following criteria: the student's intellectual ability, social and emotional development, the student's learning style and strengths, and the degree of independence in the student's work habits.

Post-Secondary Institutions

There are several opportunities for post-secondary education in British Columbia. Please see below for a list of some of the local universities and colleges. For further institutions and/or help in planning for your future, please make an appointment with your school counsellor.

Simon Fraser University

<http://www.sfu.ca/>

University of British Columbia

<http://www.ubc.ca/>

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

<http://www.kpu.ca/>

British Columbia Institute of Technology

<http://www.bcit.ca/>

Capilano College

<http://www.capilanou.ca/>

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Douglas College

<http://www.douglascollege.ca/>

Langara College

<http://langara.ca/>

Vancouver Community College

<http://www.vcc.bc.ca/>

Post-Secondary Planning

For information about post-secondary planning, please see below for links to several websites.

BC Transfer Guide

<http://bctransferguide.ca/>

Education Planner

<http://www.educationplanner.ca/>

BC Council for Admissions and Transfer

<http://www.bccat.bc.ca/>

Financial Aid and Student Loan Information

For information about financial aid and student loans, please see below for web resources. For further information you can also speak to your high school counsellor or call a post-secondary institution.

Student Aid

<https://studentaidbc.ca/>

Student Loan Information

<https://studentaidbc.ca/apply>

Student Financial Assistance Estimator

<http://tools.canlearn.ca/cslgs-scpse/cln-cln/sfae-eafe/sfae-eafe-0-eng.do>