

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PREAMBLE

Community Schools increase the effective use of school buildings and grounds as community assets. They contribute to a healthy community dynamic by increasing public access to programs and services that may occur alongside regular school operations as well as during evenings, weekends and school breaks. Community Schools in Burnaby have proven to be effective settings to integrate many community services that provide benefits to community members of all ages. The Burnaby School District's Community Schools model is built on the following values: inclusiveness; capacity building; sharing resources, including human, physical and financial; leadership development; lifelong learning; inter-agency coordination, cooperation and collaboration; neighbourhood-based action, and; sustainability.

POLICY

THE BOARD SUPPORTS A COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL TO MEET COMMUNITY INTERESTS AND NEEDS THAT ARE BEYOND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE'S CORE MANDATE. THE BOARD BELIEVES THAT THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS. THE BOARD'S ABILITY TO SUSTAIN THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MODEL IS DEPENDANT ON PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES ARE PROVIDED.

OBJECTIVES

To sustain an effective Community Schools initiative, the Board of Education commits to:

Partnerships with Community Organizations

Developing and maintaining formal partnerships with local organizations, non-profits, and government agencies to resource the supports and services that will effectively serve community needs. These partnerships are confirmed through formal agreements endorsed by the Board and each partner organization.

Community Engagement and Involvement

Community School designation and ongoing operation require collaborative engagement with the local community – parents and guardians, local organizations, and other community groups. Such collaboration is necessary to identify community needs, to design programs and services, and to monitor program enrolment to ensure sustainability.

Scope of Programming

Community Schools consider the local community population of all ages in developing and sustaining accessible and inclusive programs and services that reflect the needs and interests of the community.

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2025-03

Cross References: