

VSBS – Preferred School Size Working Group

Glossary of terms and considerations

This document provides working definitions of key terms and considerations to be included in PSSWG conversations. Additional terms will be included as the need arises.

School Size – the number of students attending a school based on the school enrolment

Relevant research – BC and Canadian context, guidelines and considerations from other school districts

Current VSBS Schools and Enrolment – range of school sizes, number of schools within size ranges

Seismic Mitigation Program – provincially funded program, mandate is to ensure that there are sufficient seismically safe schools to accommodate enrollment (assume about 50,000)

Student Programs and Services

- Programming and Choice – programming describes the courses available for a student to choose for their educational program
- Inclusion and student services – ensuring that all students are supported to participate in age appropriate regular classes

School Organization and Staffing Considerations

- School organization – the process of determining which students will be placed in which divisions (elementary) or which students will be scheduled into which courses (secondary)
- Staff allocation – the process of allocating enrolling and non- enrolling teaching staff to schools
- Terms of the Collective Agreement – the Collective Agreement between the teachers and the employer sets out details regarding class size and composition
- Staff collaboration, program development, professional development – formal and informal opportunities for staff to learn together with the goal of improving the student learning experience
- Administrative allocation and Administrative support – the process of allocating Principal/Vice Principal (PVP) to schools, the capacity of PVP to support the school community with the goal of improving the student learning experience

Financial Considerations

- Cost per student – a financial analysis of the cost per student in each school in the District