

Questions and Answers

How do I talk to my child's teacher when I don't speak English very well?

- Multicultural Liaison Workers and/or Settlement Workers in Schools are multilingual staff on many Boards of Education. They are there to help you. Get one of them to assist you by making an appointment with the teacher and accompany you. It is important to be on time for this appointment.
- Local immigrant serving agencies also have staff that can help you.
- Go to Parents' Nights, Parent-Teacher Conferences and other school initiated opportunities; multilingual staff are there to help you understand and communicate your questions and concerns.



VSB

“Parent Questions and Answers”

This brochure is one in a series sponsored by the VSB SWIS program and produced collectively by a group of ESL/ELL teachers and the VSB MCLW team.

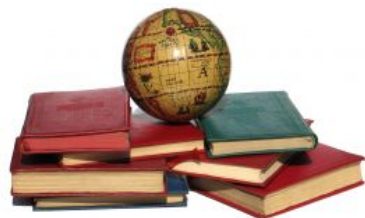


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Parent Questions and Answers



Answers to Commonly Asked Questions



Why is my child getting ESL/ELL help?

- Students get ESL/ELL help when they don't have enough English to meet grade level expectations.
- ESL/ELL teachers teach both English and the specialized vocabulary of academic courses that students will study in the future.
- It can take 2 years to learn basic English communication skills.
- It can take more than 5 years to learn the language of textbooks; working 'harder' will not decrease this time. Students learning academic English are already working very hard.

What is the BEST school for my child?

- The BEST school for your child is the one in your neighbourhood so your child can make friends more easily.

What is wrong with not arriving at school on time?

- A student can miss classroom instruction and homework information.
- A student can miss important information about school activities.
- It's not respectful to other students and to teachers.
- Getting to school on time is good practice for getting to a job on time.

Why doesn't my child have more homework?

- Please see brochure on homework.

Why does my child have to take Physical Education (PE) and Fine Arts?

- PE and Fine Arts courses are compulsory (Ministry of Education).
- Research shows that students who study music and are physically fit perform better in academic courses.
- Students need opportunities to demonstrate talents and abilities in non-academic areas where English is not the major factor.
- Schools in BC strive to help develop all aspects of each individual, not only the academic side of the learner.

