

ADVOCACY PLAN

EDUCATION PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Advocacy Plan aligns with the Vancouver School Board's (VSB) Education Plan by centering student needs, promoting equity, and ensuring safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments. The goals and objectives reflect the VSB's commitment to improving student achievement, well-being, and belonging, as well as fostering culturally responsive and equitable educational practices.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this advocacy plan is to guide VSB's advocacy efforts aimed at federal, provincial, and local governments, as well as other outside organizations. This plan is designed to support the VSB in achieving its Education Plan goals by securing the necessary funding, resources, and policy changes. Through targeted advocacy, we aim to enhance recruitment and retention, ensure equitable and sufficient funding, improve facilities, and promote inclusive education. Our efforts are focused on creating a safe, equitable, and culturally responsive learning environment where all students can thrive.

EQUITABLE AND SUFFICIENT FUNDING

Objective: Secure equitable and sufficient funding for K-12 education by updating funding formulas, ensuring comprehensive support for all students, advocating for inflation-indexed funding and universal food programs funding.

Strategies:

1. Advocate for an updated funding formula which reflects current realities and emerging needs and ensures an equitable distribution of funding.
2. Advocate to ensure that students with disabilities or diverse abilities receive equitable funding.
3. Advocate for inflation-indexed funding which will ensure that education funding is adjusted annually to keep pace with inflation.
4. Advocate for the graduated adults funding model to align with funding for all other categories of learners by providing full funding upon activation and eliminating the 50% funding provided on completion of the course. See [Adult Funding Policy](#) for more information.
5. Advocate for the establishment of a universal school food program funded by both provincial and federal governments.
6. Advocate to secure dedicated funding for Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Teams. These teams are part of B.C.'s strategy for mental health and substance use care, providing services in a multidisciplinary setting.
7. Align with and support [BCSTA](#)'s efforts to secure equitable and sufficient funding for K-12 education.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF STAFF

Objective: Enhance staff recruitment and retention by advocating for targeted funding and support, expansion of teacher training programs and enhanced mobility solutions, improving workforce mobility.

Strategies:

1. Advocate to ensure that employees can travel to worksites quickly, reliably, and cost-effectively.
2. Advocate to ensure that teacher education programs are well-aligned with curriculum standards and that requirements to apply for a Certificate of Qualification are streamlined.
3. Advocate for teacher education spots and funding for teachers committed to long-term service in B.C.
4. Advocate for provincial policies that support retention of staff.
5. Align with and support [BCSTA](#)'s efforts in recruitment and retention of staff.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Objective: Advocate for increased funding and support for inclusive education, ensuring that all students, regardless of background or ability, have the opportunity to succeed in a safe, equitable, and culturally responsive learning environment. Additionally, advocate for enhanced equity and anti-bullying measures in schools.

Strategies:

1. Advocate to secure additional funding through the 2025 Provincial Budget consultation process to better meet the diverse learning needs of students and ensure that every learner receives the tailored support and resources they need to thrive.
2. Advocate for provincial policies and guidelines that foster culturally responsive learning environments that respect and celebrate diversity.
3. Advocate for provincial policies and guidelines that reduce bullying and promote equity.
4. Align with and support [BCSTA](#)'s efforts in promoting inclusive education.

RENEWED, SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES

Objective: Ensure the renewal, accessibility, safety, and sustainability of educational facilities through comprehensive funding, updated standards, and targeted advocacy efforts.

Strategies:

1. Advocate to secure funding to accelerate the renewal of educational facilities to enhance learning environments and meet student needs.
2. Advocate to secure funding for the seismic replacement of schools to reduce seismic risk, operational costs, and improve learning environments.
3. Advocate to secure funding to address facilities-related priorities identified in [the VSB's three-year Accessibility Plan](#).
4. Advocate to enhance student mobility (e.g. bus, bike routes, cross-walks), in collaboration with the City of Vancouver, TransLink, and others.
5. Advocate for more sustainable school district facilities that are climate resilient and contribute to the achievement of provincial [CleanBC](#) goals.
6. Advocate for funding that reflects the impact of enrolment changes on capital resources needed to deliver educational programs.
7. Advocate to secure ongoing funding for the creation and maintenance of before and after school child care spaces within schools.
8. Align with and support [BCSTA](#)'s efforts in securing funding for capital projects and deferred maintenance.