

Inclusive Education Comox Valley Schools (SD71)

The Comox Valley School district is committed to supporting the educational, personal, social and emotional development of all students and to provide equitable access to learning opportunities to ensure they achieve their individual goals.

Inclusive Education is a broad term used to describe specially designed learning opportunities and services to meet the unique needs of exceptional learners.

In Comox Valley Schools, the Inclusive Education Department has a wide range of district staff and professionals who work with our School-Based professionals to ensure that all students' diverse learning needs are met. Access to these supports is through the School-Based team, a collaborative problem-solving team that works with classroom teachers to develop educational programs for students. School-Based Teams meet on a regular basis



BC Special Education Categories

Physically Dependent
Deaf/Blind

Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disabilities
Chronic Health Impairment
Visual Impairment
Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Autism Spectrum Disorder

Intensive Behaviour Interventions/Serious
Mental Illness

Mild Intellectual Disability
Gifted
Learning Disability
Moderate Behaviour Support/Mental Illness

Funding for services in the school setting:

Learners with a significant level of additional needs are assessed and categorized by Inclusive Education according to Ministry of Education criteria and guidelines.

It is important to know that funding does not come to the school district targeted for individual students.

The monies received by the district come in the form of a lump-sum Specialized Services Grant. This grant pays not only for educational assistant time, but also for the learning support teachers, assessments, counselling, resources, speech and language services, occupational & physical therapy, etc.

A specific designation does not result in a specific entitlement of support. The support and intervention a student receives is based on the decisions made by the school, in collaboration with families, and balanced with the overall needs of the school. We are always working to make sure students are safe, happy and learning while helping them build as much independence as possible.



Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners
INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Information for Families of Students with Support Needs



Inclusive Education

COMOX VALLEY
SCHOOLS

Embracing Diversity

The Inclusive Education Team

The school and district team will work with you to support your child. This may include the creation of an **Individualized Education Plan**, or **Student Learning Plan** which specifically outlines the goals and strategies being put in place to help your child be safe and successful at school.

- **A Learning Support Teacher** will help support your child and co-ordinate your child's Individualized Education Plan or Learning Plan.
- **Education Assistants** are assigned to learning environments and provide classroom and individualized support to students.
- **Additional support** is available from a counsellor, speech language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, English language learning and District Inclusion teachers.
- **District support** is also available for students with hearing and visual impairments.

Referrals for services are made through your child's classroom teacher to the School-Based Team. Your child's teacher, or case-manager, will be the best place to go to plan for interventions and support.

The **School Based Team** is the school committee that works to determine the supports and interventions for individual students. If you have a concern, begin with a conversation with your child's teacher.

Concern expressed about student's academic progress or emotional health.

Classroom teacher refers student to School-Based Team.

School-Based Team holds a problem-solving meeting to brainstorm options for support.

Team implements suggestions and monitors student.

Additional support provided in classroom

Remedial support is initiated.

Parents contacted to explore medical/other assessments.

Additional school-based or district assessments are recommended.

Learning Environments at School

Your child's classroom will be the place they spend most of their school day.

Other learning spaces are provided when they are needed for small group or individual support of specific, targeted skills. Our goal is to provide children with the best learning environments to meet their individual needs.

Many schools are equipped with a **sensory room or break room** where support staff can help the school team provide regulating activities when needed, or children who find the classroom setting overwhelming can take a break.



British Columbia promotes an inclusive education system in which students with special needs are fully participating members of a community of learners. Inclusion describes the principle that all students are entitled to equitable access to learning, achievement and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of their educational programs. The practice of inclusion is not necessarily synonymous with full integration in regular classrooms and goes beyond placement to include meaningful participation and interaction with others.

-BC Ministry of Education: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines