

Other Legislation

Other legislation that influences the work of public schools include:

Constitution Act:

- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Rights of Aboriginal Peoples

Child, Family and Community Service Act

Employment Standards Act and Regulation

Financial Disclosure Act

Financial Information Act

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Human Rights Code

Labour Relations Act

Local Government Act and Community Charter

Multiculturalism Act

Ombudsman Act

Office for Child and Youth Act

Official Languages Act

Personal Information Protection Act

Public Education Labour Relations Act

Public Sector Employers Act

Workers Compensation Act

terms and definitions

The terms used to describe what happens in public education can be confusing to many parents. Some of the terms used are explained below:

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement: An agreement between a school board and local aboriginal peoples and the Ministry of Education that focuses on improving achievement for aboriginal students.

Accountability contract: See page 43.

Adaptations: Teaching methods, materials and/or evaluation methods are adapted and identified in the IEP for those students whose learning outcomes are the same as in the provincial curriculum.

AD/HD: Attention Deficit Disorder with or without hyperactivity.

Assessment: Assessment is the process of gathering evidence of what a student knows, understands and is able to do and identifying the student's learning needs. Evaluation is the process of interpreting, making judgment, and forming decisions based on that evidence.

Child in Care: A child who is in the custody, care or guardianship of the director under the Child, Family and Community Service Act or the director under the Adoption Act.

Distributed Learning: a method of instruction that relies primarily on indirect communication between students and teachers, including internet or other electronic-based delivery, teleconferencing or correspondence.

Distributed Learning School: a school or francophone school that offers instruction to its students by means of distributed learning only.

DPAC: District Parent Advisory Council. See page 13 and 56.

ESL: English as a Second Language. For students who require specialized services to adjust to the linguistic and cultural environment in order to be successful in the BC school system.

FSA: Students in Grades 4 and 7 take the Foundation Skills Assessment. The FSA is an annual province-wide assessment of BC students' academic skills. It gives a snapshot of how well BC students are learning foundation skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing, and Numeracy.

I: A symbol on a report card meaning In Progress/Incomplete.

IEP: Individual Education Plans are developed for students identified with special needs who need significant extra resources and help in a particular area. An IEP describes program adaptations and/or modifications and the

special services that are to be provided for the student. It is reviewed regularly and updated at least annually.

IRP: Integrated Resource Packages outline the curriculum for most core subjects and required courses. They contain suggestions about ways to teach and assess students and the resources that could be used. They also include the learning outcomes describing what students are expected to achieve by the end of the year.

LA: Learning Assistance provides a co-ordinated and integrated set of support services that include school-based consultation, collaborative planning and co-ordination with the school-based team, and instruction. (Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines, Ministry of Education).

LD: Learning Disability or Severe Learning Disability (SLD).

Modifications: Individualized, personalized goals are developed and stated in the IEP for students whose learning outcomes are different from or in addition to the provincial curriculum.

PAC: See page 11.

Paraprofessional: a person who is trained to help a professional.

PEN: Each student in the province is assigned a Personal Education Number to track the student through K-12 and the transition to post-secondary education.

School:

- (a) a body of students that is organized as a unit for educational purposes under the supervision of a principal, vice principal or director of instruction,
- (b) the teachers and other staff members associated with the unit, and
- (c) the facilities associated with the unit, and includes a Provincial resource program and a distributed learning school.

SPC: School Planning Council. See page 16.

Special Education: a range of student support services provided by school districts to respond to the educational needs of its students, particularly those who are gifted or have a disability.

Special Needs: Students with special needs have disabilities of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature, or have a learning disability or have exceptional gifts or talents.

TA: Teacher Assistant. In some districts, TAs may be called Special Education Assistants (SEA), Education Assistants (EA) or Certified Education Assistant (CEA).

TOC: Teacher On Call (substitute teacher).

finding more information

Information is available in schools or school districts. Parents can ask other parents, members of their PAC, DPAC or SPC, school and district staff and school trustees for information. Information is also available on school, district and ministry websites.

A Guide to School Legislation in British Columbia: A practical reference source on BC school law published by the BC School Trustees' Association. It describes what the legislation means for school districts and schools. Available from the BC School Trustees' Association, 4th Floor, 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 5K9. Phone: (604) 734-2721; Fax: (604) 732-4559 www.bcsta.org

Aboriginal Enhancement Agreements: Ministry of Education.
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/agreements

Aboriginal Enhancement Agreements: A Guide for Success. Ministry of Education www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/agreements/ea_guide.pdf

Accountability Framework:

- The Accountability Cycle. www.bccpac.bc.ca/SPC/acct_cycle.htm
- The Accountability Framework—how it works in BC's public schools. www.bccpac.bc.ca/SPC/acct_htm
- Accountability Framework—Policy Document. www/bced/gpv/bc/ca/policy/policies/accountability_framework.htm
- District Accountability Contract Guidelines. www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools/sdinfo/acc_contracts

Anti-racism Toolkit Activity Set. Educational Activities for Use in Workshops and Classrooms. Eric D. Wong. First Nations Education Steering Committee, 2002 www.fnesc.ca/publications

Association for Community Education in BC (ACEbc) The association is dedicated to fostering and promoting Community Education and Community Schools in British Columbia. www.acebc.org

Autism Society of British Columbia: promotes understanding, acceptance, and full community inclusion for people with autism in British Columbia while providing support for the realization of the rights and informed choices of individuals with autism and their families. 303 - 3701 East Hastings Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 2H6 Tel: 604.434.0880 Toll Free: 1.888.437.0880 Fax: 604.434.0801 www.autismbc.ca

BC College of Teachers (BCCT): is the professional self-regulatory body for more than 65,000 licensed educators in British Columbia. 400 - 2025 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 1Z6 Tel 604.731.8170 toll-free 1.800.555.3684 www.bcct.ca

The BCCPAC Advocacy Project: More information is available on the BCCPAC website. Go to www.bccpac.bc.ca. If there are no DPAC-appointed advocates in the school district, call the toll free message line 1-888-351-9834 for help.

BCCPAC Publications:

- Call it Safe: A parent guide to dealing with bullying in elementary schools
- Call it Safe: A parent guide to dealing with harassment and intimidation in secondary schools.
 - Available on the BCCPAC website at www.bccpac.bc.ca or on the Ministry of Education website: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/pubs.htm
- Our Voice: News magazine for parents, PACs and DPACs published three times a year
- BCCPAC Leadership Manual For School and District Parent Advisory Councils
- Speaking Up! A parent guide for advocating for students in public schools

The BC Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect: Available online at the Ministry of Children and Family Development website: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/child_abuse_handbook/1toc.htm

While intended for service providers, the handbook has valuable information about emotional abuse and emotional harm. Parents should understand that while some actions by staff may not be emotional abuse by definition, it may still be very important to improve the way their child is treated.

BC Human Rights Tribunal: If you have a complaint about discrimination under the BC Human Rights Code, you may complain to the BC Human Rights Tribunal. Discrimination complaints can only be made on certain grounds. You can find more information at www.bchrcoalition.org or www.bchrt.bc.ca.

BC Safe Schools Strategy—Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools:
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco

BC School Trustees Association: The website has information of interest about public school issues, trusteeship, legislation, etc. www.bcsta.org

BCTF Presentations for Parents June 2005: Offered to parent groups at no charge; parent groups arrange suitable location for presentation. Presentations available: Supporting Your Child's Learning; Antibullying; Raising Confident Boys (and Girls) www.bctf.ca/parents/presentations

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) - British Columbia & Yukon: The provincial branch of CPF is composed of individuals and families dedicated to the promotion and creation of French Second Language (FSL) learning opportunities for young Canadians. CPF provides support, information and resources for parents with children in the French Immersion or French as a Second Language (FSL/Core French) programs. www.cpf.bc.ca

Child and Youth Officer for BC: The Child and Youth Officer provides advocacy support for children and youth in care who are having difficulty speaking up for their rights under section 70 of the Child, Family and Community Service Act. Children and youth in care must be informed of their right to contact the Child and Youth Officer. Phone toll free: 1-800-476-3933; In Victoria: 356-0831. www.gov.bc.ca/cyo.

Difficult Conversations. How to Discuss What Matters Most:
By Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton, Sheila Heen of the Harvard Negotiation Project. The book may be available in the local library or can be ordered through a local bookstore or online.

District Review Guide: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/review/reviewguide.pdf

Diversity in BC Schools: A Framework: Ministry of Education 2004
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/diversity/diversity_framework.pdf

Enquiry BC: Call for assistance in directing phone enquiries to the correct ministry or government organization. Available 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. Email: EnquiryBC@gems3.gov.bc.ca

In Victoria: (250) 387-6121

In Vancouver: (604) 660-2421

Elsewhere in BC: toll free 1-800-663-7867

Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD):

In Vancouver: (604) 775-0303

Elsewhere: toll free 1-800-661-8773

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC): FNESC facilitates discussion about education matters affecting First Nations in BC by providing information and asking for input from First Nations. This site website provides information about FNESC and its activities, programs, upcoming events and publications. www.fnesc.ca

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA):

If you have difficulty accessing your child's personal information, you can call the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC for information on how to make a complaint. The office does not accept complaints by email. Call Enquiry BC and ask for (250) 387-5629 or visit the website at www.oipc.bc.ca PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9A4

Learning Disabilities Association of BC. Visit the LDA Canada website www.ldac-taac.ca for chapters. Know Your Rights is a guide for parents of children with Learning Disabilities and/or AD/HD. Published by the Learning Disabilities Association—South Vancouver Island, the guide includes a youth version and is available on-line at www.knowyourrights.ca.

Ministry of Education Publications. www.bced.gov.bc.ca/pubs.htm.

Ready, Set, Learn

Math for Families

Reading for Families

Writing for Families

Helping Your Child Learn Kindergarten to Grade 3

Helping Your Child Learn Grades 4-7

Helping Your Child Learn Grades 8-9

Grad Planner Grades 10-12

Manual of School Law: Includes the *School Act*, *Teaching Profession Act*, *Independent School Act* and related regulations and orders

Safe, Caring & Orderly Schools

Focus on Suspension (1998)

Special Education

Parents' Guide to Individual Education Planning (IEP)

Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

Teaching Students with Autism

Teaching Students with Learning and Behavioural Differences

Teaching Students with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Teaching Students with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects

Gifted Education

Office of the Ombudsman: The Ombudsman receives inquiries and complaints about the practices and services provided by public bodies. The Ombudsman may investigate to determine if the public body is being fair to the people it serves. If people are not sure whether their complaint falls within the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman, they can ask in person: Second Floor, 756 Fort Street, Victoria; by mail: PO Box 9039 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9A5; by phone 1-800-567-3247 (all of B.C.); 387-5855 or through the website. www.ombudsman.bc.ca

Performance standards: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/perf_stands

Public libraries: Many publications produced by the provincial government and other organizations may only be available on their websites. The public library may have computers with internet connections that are available for community members to use.

School Planning Councils:

www.bccpac.bc.ca/SPC

Information, Guidelines, Resources, Research & Reports, legislation and policy. www.bced.gov.bc.ca/spc

Roles and Responsibilities of Teachers and Teacher Assistants.

A BCTF/CUPE Joint Paper

<http://www.bctf.ca/education/InclusiveEd/TeacherTA-Roles/>

School Act: available online at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/schoollaw

Vancouver Multicultural Society: Advances cross-cultural understanding and harmony through education, participation, advocacy and public policy evaluation. www.urbancultures.ca

Volunteers and the Law: A guide for volunteers, organizations and boards. 2000 Edition. Outlines the responsibilities of volunteers and how the law applies to volunteers. This can be downloaded free of charge from the People's Law School and Volunteer Vancouver websites. www.volunteervancouver.ca

Volunteer Vancouver: inspires and builds leadership in the voluntary sector. #301-3102 Main St. Vancouver, BC V5T 3G7 Tel. 604.875.9144 Fax 604.875.0710 www.volunteervancouver.ca