

B.C. School Act

Flexible Guidelines

All school districts have the power to create policies that best meet the needs of individual districts. With regard to accepting students from other school districts, Boards of Education must first consider:

- students who live in the school's catchment area;
- the siblings (brothers, sisters) of students already at the school; and
- other students who live in the school district.

If there is space in the school and program, a district **may** accept out of district students.

The British Columbia School Act

“The British Columbia School Act”

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



Funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.



***How it Affects
Your Child's
Education***

B.C. School Act

What is the mandate for the school systems of B.C.?

“The purpose of the BC school system is to enable learners to develop their INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and prosperous and sustainable economy.”

School Act Section 169(3)



What is the B.C. School Act?

The B.C. Ministry of Education, through the School Act, provides guidelines to Boards of Education on what they must do. Some guidelines are very specific because they apply to all districts in the province. Other guidelines allow Boards of Education to create their own policies. These must agree with the School Act, but can recognize individual district circumstances.

Specific Guidelines

All school districts must ensure:

- that free public schooling be provided to residents of British Columbia. (Residents are those families who live and pay taxes in B.C.)

- that schooling be provided for children and youth aged 5 to 18 years of age.
- that an individual who turns 19 years of age after July 1st of any year may start school in September and finish that year of study.
- that students 5 to 16 years of age **must** receive schooling.
- that students have a right to attend school in their school district.
- that students have the right to **apply** to attend any school in the province.

