

VSB School Design Principles

VSB CORE PURPOSE

It is our collective responsibility as a school district to ensure the highest quality of learning for all students, with a focus on student engagement, learning, and development in a safe, inclusive environment.

School Design Principles

The VBE is designing schools with maximum flexibility for teaching and learning today and for the future. This document evolves as our understanding of teaching and learning grows.

Maximum flexibility and adaptability for today and the future:

- the design reflects current understanding of how students learn but it is also flexible enough to adapt as that understanding evolves
- there are spaces designed for large group, small group, and individual activities
- a variety of learning and teaching styles are supported
- every space is a gathering and a learning space

School Community connections:

- the design promotes a feeling of belonging and a sense of community
- classrooms are clustered to create small learning communities
- small learning communities provide a home base, serve as a gathering space, and enable students to gather in different sized groups

Professional Support:

- educators have access to tools, resources, and spaces to share knowledge and practice with each other and other professionals, interact with experts in their field, and connect with their students, families and communities
- each small learning community incorporates spaces to promote collaboration and professional sharing



Healthy and sustainable environment:

- a healthy and safe environment is provided for all users
- natural lighting, temperature control, ventilation, and acoustics are optimized
- there are provisions for outdoor learning and physical activities
- it is a pleasure to learn, teach, work, play, eat, and socialize in these spaces
- the building incorporates and visibly demonstrates sustainable design concepts
- the building is durable, low maintenance, highly energy and resource efficient, and reduces operating and maintenance costs

Connections to the Wider Community:

- the design invites community participation
- the design allows for separation of learning spaces from community usage spaces (gym, multi-purpose room, library, meeting rooms)
- materials, massing, siting, and elevations contribute to an inspiring and coherent design
- the design establishes an appropriate civic presence in its neighbourhood

