

# **Vancouver School District Alternate and Alternative Secondary Education Programs**



**2021/22 Resource Guide**



**Program Quick Reference**

INDEX..... 1  
OVERVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ..... 2-3  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS .....4-5

**JUNIOR DISTRICT ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

Streetfront.....6  
Sunrise.....7  
Tupper Alternative .....8  
Vinery.....9

**SENIOR DISTRICT ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

Outreach.....10  
Take a Hike..... 11

**VANCOUVER ALTERNATE SECONDARY SCHOOL (Includes Inter-Agency Programs)**

Aries..... 13  
Cedar Walk..... 14  
East Van Education Centre .....15  
Foundation.....16  
Genesis Central ..... 17  
Genesis North East ..... 17  
Genesis South ..... 17  
Heron’s Nest Education Centre for Young Parents ..... 18  
Pinnacle..... 19  
South Vancouver Learning Centre .....20  
Spectrum.....21  
Summit.....22  
Total Education.....23  
Tupper Nova .....24  
West Program......25

## **OVERVIEW OF ALTERNATE AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT (39)**

The Vancouver Board of Education (School District No. 39) provides a variety of pathways for students to reach their graduation goals. The majority of students will attend their neighbourhood school. The Board believes that the neighbourhood school is central in meeting the educational needs of most students, it recognizes that students, parents/guardians, community members and school staff may request an alternative educational setting to support students on their pathways to success.

The Vancouver School District is home to 7 District Alternative Programs, 15 VASS Programs and 1 co-managed program (City School) in addition to Adult Education Centres for youth and adults. The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize you with the variety of programs, supports, and services that exist in the district's alternate and alternative educational settings.

### **District Alternative Programs:**

District Alternative Programs provide an environment that includes additional support for students while ensuring a high level of academic rigour and student accountability. Using a strengths-based approach, teachers employ a variety of instructional methods designed to engage reluctant learners and meet the individual educational needs of each student. Students work from an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that is co-developed with parents/guardians and program staff to address the academic, behavioural, social-emotional and/or mental health profile of each student. The foundation of alternative programs is the positive, mutually respectful relationship between students and the program's staff. We understand this to be essential to student success.

Each District Alternative Program offers an application package detailing information regarding the referral process. Please contact your neighbourhood school counsellor or administrator, or the programs directly to obtain an application. Parents/Guardians will be notified directly from the program staff concerning the status of applications. The application is also available at [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx).

The district employs one District Youth and Family Worker to support students/families who have become disengaged from the educational system and who require school and program placement at the secondary level.

## **VASS – Vancouver Alternate Secondary School:**

Most of the VASS Programs are Inter-agency programs jointly funded by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). These VASS partnership programs are for students who require additional supports beyond what the District Alternative Programs can provide. The focus of the Inter-agency programs is to deliver intensive support to move students away from an at-risk track, which may affect their learning, interpersonal relationships and /or personal adjustment over a prolonged period.

Referrals from an MCFD or VACFSS Social Worker or a Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed bi-monthly by a joint-partners screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Referrals for Spectrum, West, Total Education and Foundation are through the online application, [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx).

VCH provides outreach services to all Vancouver Alternate Secondary School programs.

## **Ministry of Education Graduation Requirements**

### **Graduation Program (Dogwood)**

The Dogwood Certificate of Graduation is what the majority of students in the K-12 education system will complete for recognition of graduation. School staff will continue to support students in taking Ministry required exams.

For more information on the paths to graduation, please go to

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info#graduation-requirements>

### **B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma)**

The B.C. Certificate of Graduation, or Dogwood Diploma, is awarded to students who complete the provincial graduation requirements. To graduate, students require at least 80 credits total.

Of these 80 credits:

- 52 credits are required from the following:
  - Physical and Health Education 10 (4 credits).
  - Science 10 (4 credits), and a Science 11 or 12 (4 credits).
  - Social Studies 10 (4 credits), and a Social Studies 11 or 12 (4 credits).
  - A Math 10 (4 credits), and a Math 11 or 12 course (4 credits).
  - A Language Arts 10, 11, and a required 12 course (4 credits required at each grade, 12 credits total).
  - An Arts Education 10, 11, or 12 and/or an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies 10, 11, or 12 (4 credits total).
  - Career-Life Education (4 credits), and Career-Life Connections (4 credits).
  
- At least 28 credits must be elective course credits.
- At least 16 credits must be at the Grade 12 level, including a required Language Arts 12 course and the Career-Life Connections course.

Also, students must also complete three Provincial Graduation Assessments:

- Grade 10 Graduation Literacy Assessment
- Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment; and
- Grade 12 Graduation Literacy Assessment.

The **Adult Graduation Program (Adult Dogwood)** is open to students who are 18 or older. This program requires a student to complete 20 credits that must include English or Communications 12 and a Math 11 or 12. To be eligible for the Adult Dogwood, the student must take at least three of their courses leading towards graduation as an adult (18 years of age or older). Students should not be moved from the Regular Graduation Program to the Adult Graduation Program while courses are in progress.

ADULT DOGWOOD GRADUATION REQUIRED COURSES:	
Subject Area	Minimum Credits
Language Arts 12	4
Mathematics 11 or 12	4
AND	
OPTION #1 or	
3 Grade 12 electives *	12
OPTION #2	
SS 11, CIV 11 or BCFN 12	4
2 Grade 12 electives*	8
OVERALLTOTAL:	20 credits

\*Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) and Independent Directed Studies (IDS) courses do not count toward the minimum five courses required in the Adult Graduation Program.

\*Adult learners are not required to complete the Graduation Numeracy or Literacy Assessments.

**School Completion Certificate Program (Evergreen Certificate)** is open to students for whom the other graduation options are not academically feasible. To receive a School Completion Certificate, a student must complete the goals of their Individual Education Plan (IEP), which includes academic, personal, pre-employment and career components.

The Evergreen Certificate is intended to celebrate success in the learning and accomplishments of diverse learners. For the student to be eligible for a school completion certificate, the student must have an IEP and be designated in one of the Ministry of Education's education categories.

**JUNIOR**  
**DISTRICT**  
**ALTERNATIVE**  
**PROGRAMS**



## STREETFRONT PROGRAM

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Address: 1001 Cotton Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3T4  
Telephone: 604-713-8272  
Administering School: Britannia Secondary School

### **Program Description:**

Streetfront is an activity-based alternative program located on the northwest corner of the Britannia Secondary School site where students have the opportunity to complete Grades 8-10. There is a strong physical aspect to the curriculum: running three times a week, regular gym sessions, swimming and weight training, along with hiking, camping, canoeing, and Nordic skiing. Students must be willing and able to participate in all activities fully. Streetfront offers core academics (Social Studies, English, Math, Science, and Planning 10) with carefully monitored assignments and attendance. Attendance and work completion is crucial to a student's success at Streetfront. Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/caregivers, and program staff. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the team is dedicated to working with students to provide social and emotional support. Through growth in self-confidence, peer relations and academic achievement, students transition from Grade 10 back to a mainstream secondary school or proceed to a senior alternative program to complete their graduation requirements.

### **Referral Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for the program commences in March for the following September. For a copy of the application form, please go to [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx). Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

## SUNRISE PROGRAM

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Address: 727 Templeton Dr., Vancouver, BC, V5L 4N8  
Telephone: 604-713-5858  
Administering School: Templeton Secondary School

### **Program Description:**

Sunrise is a grade 8 and 9 school-based Alternative Program. Along with core academic subjects, Sunrise has a strong focus on health and wellness, outdoor and environmental education, fine arts and community building. Sunrise engages students in learning through theme-based, cross-curricular instruction. Program staff work to build strong, trusting relationships with students. They also work to provide a safe, supportive and creative educational environment. We intend to reengage students' interest in their educational futures, build confidence and self-esteem, and give them a sense of belonging and community. Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/guardian, and program staff. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. Staff meets monthly with students to discuss progress in their course work and education goals.

### **Referral Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for the program commences in March for the following September. For a copy of the application form, please go to [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx). Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

## TUPPER ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

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Address: 419 East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5V 2A2  
Telephone: 604-713-8242  
Administering School: Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School

### **Program Description:**

Tupper Alternate (TAP) has been created to maximize the opportunity for successes in academic and personal growth for Grades 8 and 9 students with the goal that students complete Grade 9. TAP is located within Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School and allows for the immersion of students into the Tupper school culture. Students have access to team sports, clubs, resources, and active support and guidance of the school administration. Students are taught all academic subjects by the Tupper Alternate teacher and may be integrated into the main school for some of their elective courses. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. Student progress is managed through an Individual Education Plan (IEP). After completing Grade 9, students will return to their neighbourhood school or be recommended to another alternative district program.

### **Referral Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for the program commences in March for the following September. For a copy of the application form, please go to [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx). Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

## VINERY PROGRAM

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Address: 2275 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6K 2J1  
Telephone: 604-713-4571  
Administering School: Kitsilano Secondary School

### **Program Description:**

The Vinery Program provides a safe, supportive and nurturing educational environment to at-risk students who need additional social/emotional support. The program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their emotional, social and academic needs. Students are provided with an individualized, self-paced educational program. Students can complete grades 8, 9 and 10 in the core subject areas, and student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to the core academic subjects, the Vinery Program offers various group activities, including a Personal Awareness Program, an Arts and Community Program, and a Fitness Program. Upon completion of the Vinery Program, students are encouraged to continue their education in a setting most suited to their individual needs.

### **Referral Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for the program commences in March for the following September. For a copy of the application form, please go to [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx). Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

**SENIOR**

**DISTRICT**

**ALTERNATIVE**

**PROGRAMS**

## **OUTREACH PROGRAM**

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Address: 1001 Cotton Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3T4  
Telephone: 604-323-4391  
Administering School: Britannia Secondary School

### **Program Description:**

Outreach is a district senior secondary alternative program located in the Britannia Community Complex above the library. Outreach was created to provide a safe, welcoming and successful learning environment for Indigenous students who face barriers and/or systemic obstacles in regular classes. Non-Indigenous applicants who are interested in contributing and participating in a program with an Indigenous approach to teaching and learning are also welcome.

Outreach is a semester program for students in Grades 10-12. The curriculum focuses on academic and elective courses leading to a BC Secondary Graduation Certificate (Dogwood or Adult Dogwood), and can assist students in accessing post-secondary education, vocational/trades training and/or employment opportunities. Progress for students who require adaptations is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Youth and Family Workers (YFW) are available to provide social and emotional support to students and their families/caregivers, and to liaise with community agencies.

Students who can be successful at Outreach will engage in academic and community programming with an active Indigenous cultural component. Besides, suitable students will be:

- 16-19 years of age
- be motivated to graduate
- be willing to participate in school programming
- committed to consistent attendance
- open to working on social-emotional skills with a Youth and Family Worker

### **Referral/Application Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for Semester 1 (Sept to Jan) is May/June and the first two weeks of September and for Semester 2 (Feb to June) in December/January. For a copy of the application form, please go to

[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx).

Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

## TAKE A HIKE PROGRAM

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Address: 530 East 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5W 1P3  
Telephone: 604-713-8243 (Gr. 11/12) 604-713-8255 (Gr. 10)  
Administering School: John Oliver Secondary School

### **Program Description:**

The Take a Hike program is a unique program made possible by a partnership between the Take a Hike Youth at Risk Foundation and the Vancouver Board of Education. The program is based at John Oliver Secondary School and focuses on at-risk youth aged 15-19, grades 10-12, who are at-risk of dropping out of school or who are not currently attending school. Take a Hike operates on a semester system. The first semester runs from September to January. The second semester runs from February to June. It is a three-year program drawing on the principles of experiential learning – that students learn and grow best through first-hand experience with a focus on balancing academic requirements and adventure-based activities.

The academic program is self-paced and provides credits for Grade 10 through 12. Students will receive either a Graduation Certificate (Dogwood Certificate), an Adult Dogwood, or a School Leaving Certificate (Evergreen). The adventure-based component uses outdoor and adventure-based activities to enhance established academic and personal objectives. Students will be guided through simple group and individual tasks to situations requiring more complex skills. The adventure-based activities will include activities such as canoeing, hiking, backpacking, orienteering, camping, snowshoeing, ropes courses and trust-building exercises. Group and individual counselling are used to provide students with opportunities to learn new coping skills. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

### **Referral/Application Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for Semester 1 (Sept to Jan) is May/June and the first two weeks of September and for Semester 2 (Feb to June) in December/January. For a copy of the application form, please go to

[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx).

Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

# **VANCOUVER ALTERNATE SECONDARY SCHOOL (VASS)**

Vancouver Alternate Secondary School is a Ministry of Education Type 3 facility. It is comprised of 9 inter-agency programs administered by the District Principal of Alternate and Alternative Programs. The Ministry of Education jointly fund the Inter-agency programs, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or Vancouver Community Child and Youth Health Service. These programs are for students whose needs cannot be met within the setting of the neighbourhood secondary school or District Alternative Programs. The programs are designed for studentswhodemonstrate behavioural difficulties and “at-risk” behaviours, which may affect their learning, interpersonal relationships and /or personal adjustment over a prolonged period of time. Referrals from MCFD or an Indigenous delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSF screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority. These students meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the “H” category.

East Van Education Centre is a partnership with the Vancouver Board of Education, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Pacific Community Resources and Vancouver Coastal Health. Referrals to East Van Education Centre are submitted to the District Principal of Alternative Programs at the VSB Education Centre.



## **ARIES PROGRAM**

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Address: 1618 E Hastings, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S6

Telephone: 604-329-6210

***The Aries Program operates in partnership with Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA)***

### **Program Description:**

Aries is a program where Indigenous youth aged 13 – 16 (in the care of MCFD and/or Indigenous delegated or have ongoing MCFD and/or Indigenous delegated agency involvement). Aries provides students with a safe, non-threatening environment in which to learn, grow and enjoy life, regardless of behavioural problems, legal situations, family, or personal backgrounds. Aries provides a flexible learning environment which includes self-paced components to meet the student's unique learning needs. Grade 8 - 10 core academic subjects are offered. Electives include: life skills, cultural enrichment, video projects, Health and Career Education 8 and 9, Planning 10, Physical Education, arts/crafts, educational outings and cooking. Aries uses a team approach that includes but is not limited to school staff, social worker, probation officer, parent/caregiver, mental health worker and/or one-to-one worker to help them to be successful.

Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/caregiver and program staff. Aries students can complete grades 8, 9 and 10. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social, emotional and mental health needs. Transition Plans will be developed to provide a transition to a senior alternative program, secondary school, vocational program or employment.

### **Referral Process:**

Referrals from MCFD or Indigenous delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

## **CEDAR WALK PROGRAM**

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Address: 1043 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3C7  
Telephone: 604-708-9130

***Cedar Walk operates in partnership with Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA)***

### **Program Description:**

Cedar Walk provides a respectful, safe, and culturally relevant environment to address the needs of Indigenous students, ages 16-19 years old, who have an extended history of non-engagement in school. Often these students are in the care of MCFD and/or Indigenous delegated or have ongoing MCFD and/or Indigenous delegated agency involvement. Cedar Walk provides social, emotional, mental health, physical and spiritual support to students through sports and recreation, arts and crafts, indigenous cultural enrichment, field trips, alcohol and drug support, life skills and health information. Cedar Walk uses a team approach that includes but is not limited to school staff, social worker, probation officer, parent/caregiver, mental health worker and/or one-to-one worker to help them to be successful.

Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/caregiver and program staff. Cedar Walk students can complete the Ministry requirements for a Dogwood Certificate, an Adult Dogwood Certificate, or a School Leaving (Evergreen) Certificate. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. Academic upgrading and job readiness skills are an integral aspect of the Cedar Walk Program. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social, emotional and mental health needs. Transition Plans will be developed to provide a transition to a senior alternative program, a vocational program, or employment.

### **Referral Process:**

Referrals from MCFD or Indigenous delegated agency Social Worker, or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

## **EAST VAN EDUCATION CENTRE**

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Address: #201-2455 Fraser St., Vancouver, BC, V5T 0E6

Telephone: (B Y R C): 604-709-5720 or 604-709-5737

***The East Van Education Centre operates in partnership with Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) and Vancouver Coastal Health***

### **Program Description:**

East Van Education Centre is designed for secondary students who are working on Grades 8 to 12 and who are experiencing difficulty in the regular classroom/school environment. The program is a partnership with the Vancouver Board of Education, M.C.F.D., Pacific Community Resources Society and Vancouver Coastal Health.

The program works for students who have had a history of non-success in school and require a more supportive environment with a higher staff to student ratio and focuses on academic and social/behavioural aspects as well as providing community and pre-employment opportunities. East Van Education Centre integrates an academic program with individual and group counseling and recreational activities. The students receive academic testing and individualized and group teaching. The academic program involves adapted/modified courses and remedial work based on the student's skill levels. Goal meetings and peer group work help promote the students' clarification of values, enhance their decision-making skills, and help students be positively assertive. Recreation, art, the Breakfast Club and the lunch program encourage attendance and participation, thereby developing the students' feelings of self-worth and belonging.

Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/caregiver and program staff. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social, emotional and mental health needs.

### **Referral Process:**

This is a dual-track referral program. A limited number of self-referrals will be accepted on an ongoing basis. School and community referrals can be submitted to the District Principal, Alternative Programs at the VSB Education Centre with supporting documentation. The Screening Committee will review all referrals.

Referrals from MCFD or Indigenous delegated agency Social Worker, or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by an MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority. Intake is continuous as space becomes available. All successful applicants will be placed on a waitlist.

## FOUNDATION PROGRAM (“Building Skills for Life”)

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Address: 2530 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Vancouver, BC, V5R 2Y7  
Telephone: 604-713-5450



### **Program Description:**

Foundation is an academic, recreational program which serves at-risk youth, aged 13-17, who are looking to complete Grades 8–10. Students in this program are challenged to become more accountable and take more responsibility for their actions and choices they make. In doing so, students learn coping skills that allow them to deal with stressful situations and to communicate with adults and each other in constructive ways. Students create ties to the community and experience positive social interactions through outings and volunteer programs. A variety of guest speakers and workshops have been incorporated into the program that relates to the complex lives of youth. With the added staff support, students complete standard core courses that meet the requirements for graduation. Through a dynamic school setting, all students have an opportunity to experience success in areas of their lives where they have previously struggled. Through their accomplishments, students build self-esteem, leadership, and resiliency, allowing them to grow and become better overall citizens both in the classroom and in their communities.

### **Referral Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for the program commences in March for the following September. For a copy of the application form, please go to [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx). Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

## **GENESIS CENTRAL**

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Address: 3001 E. Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V5K 2K8  
Telephone: 604-713-5425

## **GENESIS NORTH EAST**

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Address: 3001 E. Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V5K 2K8  
Telephone: 604-713-5424

## **GENESIS SOUTH**

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Address: 3905 Fraser St., Vancouver, BC, V5V 4E5  
Telephone: 604-660-8175

### ***The Genesis Programs operate in partnership with PLEA***

#### **Program Description:**

The Genesis programs address the needs of students who are 16 to 19 years of age and have an extended history of non-engagement in school. Each Genesis program enrolls 20 students and has 1 VSB Teacher and 1 Youth Worker in partnership with PLEA Community Services Society of BC.

The three Genesis programs are designed to meet the academic, vocational, personal and social needs of each student. The Genesis programs work for students who have had a history of non-success in school and require a more supportive environment with a higher staff to student ratio. The programs employ a team approach, which includes but is not limited to school staff, social worker, probation officer, parent/guardian, mental health worker and/or one-to-one worker to help students be successful.

Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. Genesis students can complete the Ministry requirements for a Dogwood Certificate, an Adult Dogwood Certificate, or a School Leaving (Evergreen) Certificate. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to the academic component, students may be engaged in work experience, recreation, social and life skills activities. Transition Plans will be developed to provide a transition to a vocational program, a college program or employment.

#### **Referral Process:**

Referrals from MCFD or Indigenous delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis reviewed by an MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

## HERON'S NEST EDUCATION CENTRE FOR YOUNG PARENTS

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Address: 419 East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5V 2A2  
(portable located at corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> & Carolina St)

Telephone: 604-713-5839

***Heron's Nest Education Centre operates in partnership with Emma's Daycare (YWCA)***

### **Program Description:**

Heron's Nest Education Centre for Young Parents is a collaborative program involving the Vancouver Board of Education and the Y.W.C.A. Heron's Nest Education Centre for Young Parents serves 20 pregnant and parenting teens (13–19 years of age) who wish to complete their education in a safe, nurturing, individualized environment while also providing a safe, nurturing environment for their children. The core focus of the program is to facilitate students building life-long skills and confidence that will allow them to meet the academic and personal challenges of parenting, not just while in the Young Parent Program, but throughout their years of parenting. The program offers the following services to young parents and expectant parents:

- Individualized, self-paced programs depending on student needs and goals
- Support and advocacy of a full-time Youth and Family Worker
- Licensed on-site childcare at Y.W.C.A. Emma's Early Learning and Care Centre
- Food Safe Certification and Foods 11 and 12
- Parenting and child development credit course
- Healthy nutrition and lifestyle credit course, which includes healthy snacks and meals daily and opportunities for fitness activities at the Y.W.C.A.
- Bus pass assistance, if needed.

The curriculum focuses on academic and elective courses leading to a Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood), potentially fulfilling post-secondary entrance requirements. Student progress is managed through an Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/caregiver and program staff. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational programming, the program assists young mothers to achieve self-reliance and independence by combining academic work, counselling, career choices, health and parenting sessions, support groups, and recreational opportunities.

### **Referral Process:**

Referrals are made directly to the Heron's Nest Education Centre for Young Parents Program. Referrals are accepted for students 13 to 19 years of age from counsellors, administrators, social workers, youth and family workers and student self-referrals.

## **PINNACLE PROGRAM**

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Address: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - 550 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 2N7

Telephone: 604-713-5896

***Pinnacle operates in partnership with MCFD and the Provincial Health Services Authority***

### **Program Description:**

The Pinnacle program is a self-paced senior program located in an MCFD Integrated Youth Services building with access to Probation Officers, Social Workers, Drug and Alcohol Counsellors and Mental Health Workers. Students in the Pinnacle Program are aged 16 to 18 years old and are working on courses for graduation. These students receive support from a Probation Officer, Social Worker and/or Mental Health Worker. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

The goal is for students to successfully complete the academic coursework leading to a B.C. Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood) and/or an Adult Dogwood, potentially fulfilling post-secondary entrance requirements. Student progress is managed through an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to the academic component, students may be engaged in work experience, recreation, social and life skills activities. Transition Plans will be developed to provide a transition to a post-secondary program or employment.

### **Referral Process:**

Referrals from MCFD or Indigenous delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSU screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.





## **SOUTH VANCOUVER LEARNING CENTRE PROGRAM**

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Address: 4920 Fraser Street, Vancouver, BC, V5W 2Y8

Telephone: 604-325-2004, #3, ext 305

***The South Van Learning Centre operates in partnership with Milieu Family Services***

### **Program Description:**

The South Vancouver Learning Centre Program addresses the needs of students who have an extended history of non-engagement in school. Students are aged 13 to 16 years old and are working on Grades 8 to 10. The program is designed to assist the youth who would benefit from extra support in a small group setting to obtain academic credits. The South Van Learning Centre Program employs a team approach that includes but is not limited to school staff, social worker, probation officer, parent/guardian, mental health worker and/or one-to-one worker to help students be successful.

Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. South Van Learning Centre students can complete grades 8 to 10. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. Direct instruction is provided to address potential learning gaps in students' literacy and numeracy skills. In addition to the academic component, students may be engaged in recreation, social and life skills activities. Transition Plans will be developed to provide a transition to a secondary school, senior alternative program, to a career training program or employment.

### **Referral Process:**

Referrals from MCFD or Indigenous delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by an MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

## SPECTRUM PROGRAM

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Address: 2530 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5R 2Y7  
Telephone: 604-713-5722

### **Program Description:**

Spectrum is a semester senior secondary alternative program designed for students who have completed Grade 9 and are between the ages of 15 and 18. The primary goal of Spectrum is to provide students with an opportunity to complete grades 10, 11 and 12 in a safe and inclusive setting with additional academic and social/emotional support. The curriculum focuses on academic and elective courses leading to a BC Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood), potentially fulfilling post-secondary entrance requirements. Youth and Family Workers provide social and emotional support to students and their families/caregivers, and liaise with social agencies. Spectrum offers a lunch program that runs in conjunction with our sustainable garden program.

Students who are most likely to be successful at Spectrum are those who have the academic skills necessary for graduation but need the additional support offered by an alternative program. Students who are willing to work hard and accept the structure, including an attendance policy inherent in a semester system, will succeed.

### **Referral/Application Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for Semester 1 (Sept to Jan) is May/June and the first two weeks of September and for Semester 2 (Feb to June) in December/January. For a copy of the application form, please go to [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx). Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

## **SUMMIT PROGRAM**

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Telephone: 604-713-5943

***The Summit Program operates in partnership with MCFD***

### **Program Description:**

The Summit Program addresses the needs of students who have been disengaged from a school setting for an extended period of time and who need additional transitional and educational support before reentering an educational environment. Summit provides academic and life skills programming to students in Grades 8-12 who otherwise would not be accessing any educational programming. The Summit staff assess student learning needs, develop an education and transition plan, and begin gradual school re-integration work depending on the individual needs of each student.

Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/guardian and the Summit teacher and Youth and Family Worker. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the student. Direct instruction is provided to address potential learning gaps in students' literacy and numeracy skills. Additionally, Summit staff may engage students in recreational or community-based activities depending on individual student interests.

### **Referral Process:**

Referrals from MCFD or Indigenous delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by an MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

# TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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Address: 425 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, BC, V5V 2R8  
Telephone: 604-713-5782

## **Program Description:**

Total Education is a district-wide senior secondary alternative program that serves students between the ages of 16 and 19 and that operates on a semester system. The program is designed for students who have experienced academic, social and/or emotional challenges. While the program emphasizes grades 11-12, there is some accommodation for completing grade 10 courses. The curriculum focuses on academic and elective courses leading to a BC Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood), potentially fulfilling post-secondary entrance requirements.

The program's name reflects its philosophy that broader support for social development and lifestyle management enhances academic success. Teaching methods recognize individual learning styles and life experiences. Youth and Family Workers are available to provide social and emotional support to students and their families/caregivers, and to liaise with community agencies.

Students who are successful at Total Education tend to have a network of support that fosters regular school attendance, tend to be motivated to graduate, are active in the arts, and who are seeking community (as opposed to self-paced) learning.

## **Referral/Application Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for Semester 1 (Sept to Jan) is May/June and the first two weeks of September and for Semester 2 (Feb to June) in December/January. For a copy of the application form, please go to [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx). Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

# TUPPER NOVA

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Address: 419 East 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, BC, V5V 2A2

Telephone: 604-713-8264

## **Program Description:**

Nova is an outreach and resource program where students are connected within the community and at the Tupper resource centre. Nova offers core academic courses in Grades 10 - 12, in addition to elective courses PE, Art, and CLC / work experience. Programming is flexible and can occur at Nova (located in Tupper Secondary), at a variety of community locations eg. Hillcrest Community Centre, and through outreach with individual students.

Programming will include a combination of independent academic course work based on the student's individual needs. In addition to group activities and field studies, students will earn elective credits and build interpersonal connections. Schedules will be individualized to meet the needs and course requirements of each student. Students and families will be asked to sign a Minimum Engagement Agreement and will need to re-apply yearly for a placement in the Tupper Nova Program.

Nova serves students ages 15 - 18 who have difficulty attending regular and alternate school programs consistently due to significant barriers. Students should be at grade 10 level or higher and / or capable of working at the grade 10 level.

Students can complete courses at the grade 10 to 12 level in the core academic areas, in addition to a variety of electives. Student progress may also be managed through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. Students can graduate from Nova with a Dogwood Diploma.

## **MINIMUM ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

- student will contact school staff weekly (eg. text / email)
- student will meet staff / attend programming at least 2x / month
- parents and guardians meet with school staff / respond to emails / texts / consent forms as needed
- student must maintain active engagement in at least one course
- placements will be reviewed each term

## **Referral Process:**

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for the program commences in March for the following September.

For a copy of the application form, please go to

[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx).

Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting.

All successful applicants will be considered for this program.

## WEST PROGRAM

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Address: 2530 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Vancouver, BC, V5R 2Y7

Telephone: 604-713-5069

### **Program Description:**

The West Program is a Grade 9 and 10 off-site alternative program that is part of Vancouver Alternate Secondary School. At the West Program, students can complete Grades 9 and 10. Student progress is managed through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. The core academic courses are adapted to meet the students' needs. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

### **Referral Process:**

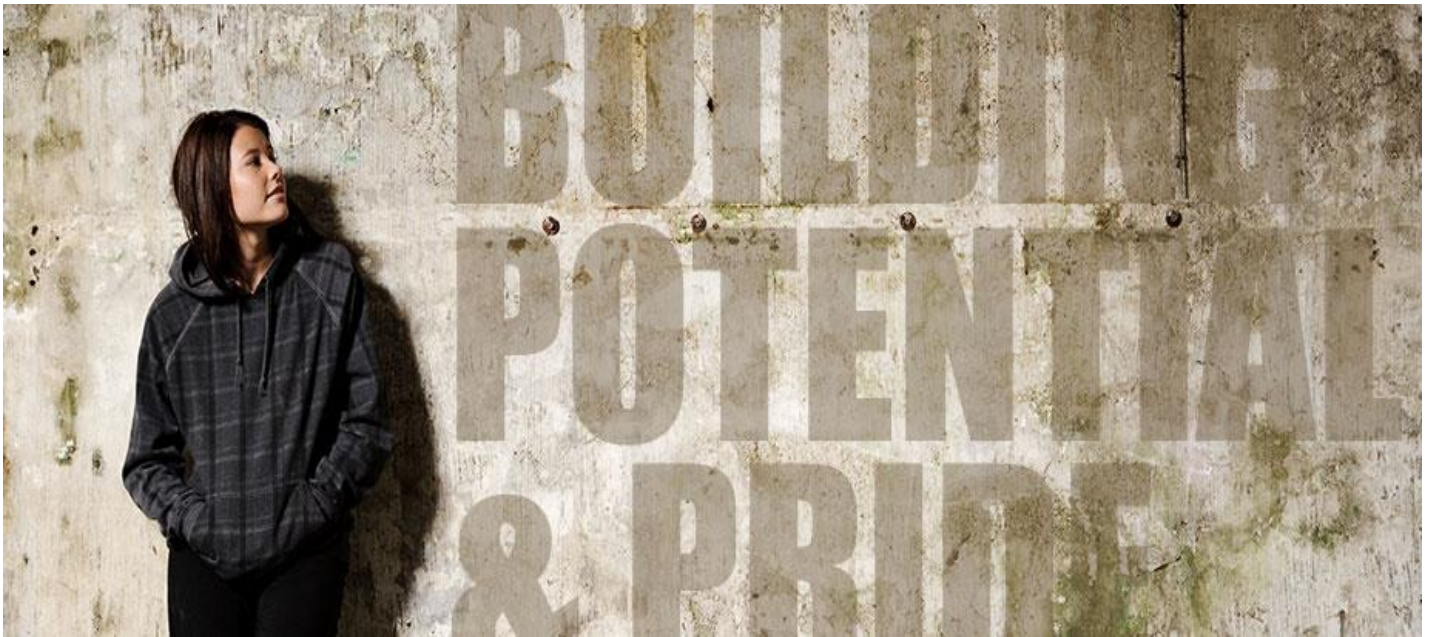
Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted on-going, although the central intake for the program commences in March for the following September.

For a copy of the application form, please go to

[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs/ReferralForm/Pages/default.aspx).

Once the applications are processed, the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will be considered for this program.





[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Support/Alternative\\_Programs](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Alternative_Programs)

Email: [alteredreferral@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:alteredreferral@vsb.bc.ca)