

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 35 (LANGLEY) ANNUAL ADVOCACY/INFLUENCE PLAN

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT

The School District No. 35 (Langley Board of Education) Annual Advocacy/Influence Plan is a strategic framework to guide our advocacy efforts with federal, provincial, and local governments, as well as other external organizations. This plan supports the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for political advocacy as outlined in *Policy 2: Role of the Board* and in achieving its Strategic Plan goals by securing necessary funding, resources, and policy changes.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Advocacy/Influence Plan aligns with the Langley School District's Strategic Plan (2023) by supporting its vision of "An Innovative, Inspiring and Unified Learning Community" and the fundamental principles of providing:

- Caring, safe and welcoming schools
- Educational opportunities to improve student success
- Proactive planning for maintaining healthy and sustainable schools
- Responsible stewardship of resources

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our advocacy efforts are guided by the following principles:

1. **nə́cəʔmat (One Heart, One Mind):** We approach advocacy with a unified focus on creating compassionate and inclusive learning communities.
2. **ya'əstəl' (Working Together):** We commit to collaborative advocacy that involves all stakeholders, particularly First Nations rights holders and Indigenous partners.
3. **Every Child Matters:** We advocate for systems, policies, and resources that ensure every child feels a sense of belonging and safety in our schools.
4. **Equity for All Learners:** We recognize that equity means fair, not equal, and advocate for resources to meet the unique needs of every student.
5. **Continuous Improvement:** We champion ongoing learning and system responsiveness to meet evolving student needs.

STRATEGIC ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Based on our District's Strategic Plan and current educational landscape, we have identified the following four key advocacy priorities:

EQUITABLE AND SUFFICIENT FUNDING

Objective: To secure sustainable, predictable, and equitable funding that addresses the growth of our district, diverse needs of Langley students, enables innovative programming, and provides resources for excellence in teaching and learning.

Key Advocacy Points:

- Advocate for expedited approval and funding for capital projects in high-growth areas
- Advocate for inflation-indexed funding to ensure we are covering our rising costs
- Advocate to ensure that students with disabilities or diverse abilities receive fair & equitable funding
- Advocate for a transparent, predictable formula that enables stable, multi-year planning
- Advocate for enhanced funding based on socioeconomic indicators to address opportunity gaps
- Advocate for dedicated funding for school-based counseling and mental health supports
- Advocate for resources supporting educational innovation and specialized programs

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF STAFF

Objective: To recruit and retain a diverse, highly skilled workforce of educators and staff, create supportive working conditions that honour wellbeing and professional growth, and foster a culture of belonging and excellence.

Key Advocacy Points:

- Advocate for expanded teacher education programs with rural/remote delivery options
- Advocate for funding for wellness programs for staff
- Advocate for more post-secondary spaces with rural/remote delivery for workforce shortage areas
- Advocate for provincial policies that support retention of staff

IMPROVED FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

Objective: To secure timely funding for high-quality, sustainable school facilities that accommodate growth, enhance learning environments, ensure safety, and serve as community assets.

Key Advocacy Points:

- Advocate for streamlined approval timelines aligned with community growth
- Advocate for on-time funding for projects identified in our Five-Year Capital Plan
- Advocate for additional funding for district-wide building maintenance
- Advocate for dedicated accessibility improvement funding with enhanced standards
- Advocate for environmentally sustainable infrastructure initiatives
- Advocate for proactive funding for strategic land purchases in developing areas
- Advocate for consistent facility standards across all schools regardless of neighbourhood
- Advocate for additional funding for seismic upgrades and emergency systems

INCLUSIVE AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

Objective: To create and sustain equitable, inclusive, safe, and culturally responsive learning environments where every student experiences belonging and reaches their full potential.

Key Advocacy Points:

- Advocate for sustained funding to fully implement the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement goals and champion implementation of UNDRIP, TRC Calls to Action, and BCTEA commitments
- Advocate for enhanced funding for English Language Learning programs
- Advocate for funding for systemic anti-racism initiatives across the district

ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The Board commits to maintaining constructive, non-partisan relationships with government leaders, prioritizing work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care and Ministry of Infrastructure. Dialogue with political representatives will remain professional, constructive, and focused on our priorities.

INCLUSION OF FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PARTNERS

The Board will continue to commit to collaborating with First Nations rights holders and Indigenous partners through the Indigenous Education Council and commit to aligning advocacy with the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement, UNDRIP, TRC Calls to Action, and the BCTEA principles.

CONCLUSION

Effective advocacy requires a proactive, strategic approach to secure the funding, resources, and policy changes necessary for student success. Guided by the principles of *nə́cəʔmat* and *ya'əstə'ł*, we will champion the best education possible for Langley students. Through clear goals, stakeholder engagement, and a balanced approach, the Board will advance its mission of creating an innovative, inspiring, and unified learning community.