

# 205 Outdoor Learning - Administrative Procedures

Adopted: September 22, 2025

## Purpose

The school principal (or a designated administrator) ensures that outdoor place-based learning experiences on the school grounds and in the local community are appropriately planned, organized, and supervised per [Policy 205: Outdoor Learning](#). Offsite excursions are governed by Board [Policy 207: Field Trips](#) and may be approved after due consideration has been given to factors identified in this policy and accompanying administrative procedures.

## Scope

These administrative procedures apply to all students as well as school district employees, independent contractors, volunteers, and visitors ("staff") and North Vancouver Board of Education Trustees. All individuals are expected to be familiar with and follow these procedures in their learning, work, and engagement with outdoor learning.

## Procedures

In the North Vancouver School District, Outdoor Learning will be planned, implemented and evaluated according to the following guidelines:

### A) Curriculum Alignment and Integration

- i. Outdoor learning activities will enhance the delivery of core competencies.
- ii. Activities should be integrated into existing curricula, including, but not limited to, science, physical health education, arts, and social studies.
- iii. Educators are encouraged to design lesson plans and activities that make purposeful use of outdoor spaces such as school grounds, parks, and natural areas.

### B) Risk Assessment and Safety Protocols

- i. All outdoor learning activities must comply with established safety protocols, supervisory ratios, and be aligned with Field Trip policy guidelines where appropriate.
- ii. Administrators must ensure that risk assessments are completed for all outdoor learning sites and activities.
- iii. Parents and families should receive clear communication about the purpose and format of activities, where appropriate.

- iv. Training and supports will be provided to staff and volunteers on safety and emergency response procedures.
- v. Teachers must account for environmental factors such as weather, wildlife, and site-specific conditions when planning and leading activities.

### **C) Inclusion and Accessibility**

- i. Outdoor learning sites must be accessible for all students, including those with mobility challenges.
- ii. Schools will be responsible for creating schedules for outdoor learning space usage as needed.
- iii. Activities should be designed to support diverse learning needs, with accessibility embedded in planning.
- iv. Outdoor learning should reflect diverse cultural perspectives and incorporate Indigenous knowledge and practices related to land and nature.

### **D) Professional Development and Resources**

- i. The Board will support training and mentorship opportunities to strengthen educators' outdoor instructional practices.
- ii. Schools and the school district will identify opportunities to develop and share resources for outdoor learning.
- iii. Professional networks for outdoor learning will be promoted as a means of sustaining curriculum and instructional growth.

### **E) Community Engagement**

- i. Schools are encouraged to collaborate with local organizations, parks, and community members to enhance outdoor learning opportunities.
- ii. Parent and community involvement is encouraged through volunteer opportunities, outreach and information sessions.
- iii. Engage local Indigenous communities and other cultural groups to provide authentic, inclusive experiences.

### **F) Evaluation and Assessment**

- i. Schools will establish methods to evaluate the effectiveness of outdoor learning initiatives, including student engagement and academic performance.
- ii. Feedback from students, families, and educators will be collected to guide continuous improvement of practices.

## **Cheakamus Centre – Sections for Consideration/Review**

- i. Organizational Model and Staffing
- ii. Budgetary Considerations
- iii. Facilities and Operations
- iv. Educational Programming
- v. Student Fees
- vi. Rentals
- vii. Reporting