

Accessible BC Act



Accessible BC Act

- The Accessible BC Act was enacted to foster an inclusive environment and remove barriers for members of the disability community

Key steps for compliance:

- Recruit and form an accessibility committee
- Develop an accessibility plan
- Implement a public feedback mechanism

Deadline for Education Sector Compliance was September 1, 2023

Accessibility Advisory Committee



Accessibility Advisory Committee Requirements:

- At least half of the committee members must, to the best extent possible, be people with disabilities or representatives of disability-serving organizations
- At least one member who identifies as Indigenous

Committee members will assist with and provide advice on:

- Identifying, preventing, and eliminating barriers to accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities considering the following principles
 - Inclusion
 - Adaptability
 - Diversity
 - Collaboration
 - Self-Determination
 - Universal Design

Committee Members



We would like to thank the following committee members for their time, commitment and leadership.

- Jennifer Branston, North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council
- Rita Vilensky, Parent representing North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council
- Kevin Pokasuwan, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389
- Wendy Matsubuchi, North Vancouver Teachers' Association
- Azaan Javer, Student
- Rose Greene, District Principal of Indigenous Education
- Carly Roy, North Vancouver Administrators' Association

We would also like to thank students Jackson Roberts and Ayaysha Baker who shared their perspectives and experiences with the committee.

NVSD Process



- Accessibility Advisory Committee identified barriers experienced by people with disabilities
- Accessibility Advisory Committee made recommendations on the removal of barriers to improve the experiences of people with disabilities within and interacting with the North Vancouver School District
- Barriers and recommendations were shared with District Leads in the areas of Facilities, Communication, Information and Communication Technology, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- DRAFT Accessibility Plan was developed
- Virtual consultation for plan development guidance and draft plan review and feedback provided by Untapped Accessibility

NVSD Process



- DRAFT plan published for September deadline
- September to December – Accessibility Advisory Committee review and revision of DRAFT plan
- January 2024 – Plan updated on District website, communication to community through the Superintendent’s Update

Accessibility Barriers



- Physical/Environmental Barriers
- Communication/Information Barriers
- Technological Barriers
- Policy & Practice Barriers
- Attitudinal Barriers

Physical/Environmental Barriers



- **Priority:** Accessible Schools and District Facilities
- **Barrier Type:** Physical/Environmental
- **Objective:** Continue to improve universal access to all North Vancouver School District facilities, inclusive of the site and connectivity to surrounding lands and infrastructure

Communication/Information Barriers



- **Priority:** Accessible Communication of Information
- **Barrier Type:** Information and Communication
- **Objective:** Improve accessibility of district and school-based websites, web content, district and school-based communications and the internal staff portal.

Technological Barriers



- **Priority:** Accessible technology
- **Barrier Type:** Technology
- **Objective:** Increase the use of technology accessibility features to improve access to curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Policy & Practice Barriers



- **Priority:** Access to Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- **Barrier Type:** Practice
- **Objective:** Provide targeted professional development training of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework in order to improve instructional planning, classroom instruction and assessment practices.

Policy & Practice Barriers



- **Priority:** Accessible Recruitment/Hiring Practices
- **Barrier Type:** Policy and Practice
- **Objective:** Ensure school district hiring processes are fully accessible to all potential candidates.

Attitudinal Barriers



- **Priority:** Disability Awareness
- **Barrier Type:** Attitudinal
- **Objective:** Increase a sense of belonging for all members of the NVSD community through building understanding of neurodivergence, disability awareness, ableism, and representation.

Next Steps



- Review and updating of Feedback Mechanism
- Continued meetings with Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Implementation of plan and monitoring of progress towards goal areas