Forming the plan

The Board of Education of School District 50 envisions our island community working together to support student success in all our schools and communities. To accomplish this, we have created this Strategic Plan—with your input—to better steer our District forward. Our vision is an educational community that fosters dignity, resilience, and personal success for all students. To this end, we have established broad goals for the District to work with.

Goals

School District 50 is an amazing and unique place to have the opportunity to learn! We embrace this special place and character in our goals, and acknowledge the challenges of our remote location as well.

- Continue to support all our students to be successful through building relationships and connections at all levels
- Address issues of isolation and remoteness, and ensure that these do not limit our student’s opportunities, support, and success in whatever field their future takes them.
- Create curious, resilient, and flexible learners able to successfully navigate the challenges of the 21st century.

‘Our vision is an educational community that fosters dignity, resilience, and personal success for all students.’

School District 50

School District 50 is one of the smallest districts in BC, with fewer than 600 students in BC’s most westerly schools. But we offer unparalleled opportunities to students and staff alike! SD50 is a unique and exciting place to learn.
Objectives—Exploring Our Goals

Continue to support all our students to be successful through building relationships and connections at all levels.

- Support Place Based and Culturally Responsive Educational Pedagogy
- Train staff to better connect with students
- Work on partnerships with communities and organizations across the islands

Address issues of isolation and remoteness, and ensure that these do not limit our student’s opportunities, support, and success in whatever field their future takes them.

- Work with our communities on issues around transportation and other partnership possibilities
- Innovative responses to declining enrolment
- Advocate for better access to the resources of the 21st century

Create curious, resilient, and flexible learners able to successfully navigate the challenges of the 21st century.

- Encourage and facilitate teacher growth through the Teacher Collaboration Project, District and Provincial Initiatives
- Promote diverse learning and learning environments, including a commitment to outdoor education, sports, fine arts, and other growth experiences
- Ensure students receive the intellectual, emotional, and life skills supports they need to succeed

Schools of Haida Gwaii

School District 50 is a small district, with just six schools spread across a large area. Each school is a unique campus within our school family.

Tahayghen Elementary in Masset offers Haida Partial Immersion in primary grades and provides space to NWCC and Haida Gwaii Rec

George M Dawson Secondary features our first award winning greenhouse and comprehensive secondary programming

Port Clements Elementary shares a modern multiplex building with VRL, the Village, and other user groups

Sk’aadgaa Naay Elementary is our largest elementary school, featuring Haida partial immersion in primary as well as French Immersion

Queen Charlotte Secondary is our largest secondary school, and features a broad range of programming and BC’s largest solar panel array on a school building

Agnes L Mathers Elementary Secondary operates both as a traditional elementary school and an alternative outreach secondary programme provider.
Culturally Responsive Education

In School District 50, we recognise the unique environment we are blessed to inhabit. We encourage our teachers to utilize our local place and culture in all aspects of the curriculum.

For example, a Marine Biology 12 class explores the intertidal zone learning the Haida names for the creatures there; an elementary math class might extrapolate the blades of grass on a field by grid calculation; or a grade 9 English class could interview elders for a school wide narrative.

We have published a series of award winning books, such as Taan’s Moons and Tluu ’Waadluxan. These books are inspiring teachers and students across BC.

A Rich Heritage, a Promising Future

School District 50 is honoured to call Haida Gwaii home. We benefit from our close relationship to its culture, its resources, and its history. The Board of Education wishes to see Haida Language and Culture at the heart of what we do in SD 50. As such, we are committed to:

♦ Continue to fund Haida as a core second language in grades 5-8
♦ Offering English First Peoples 10 exclusively
♦ Supporting external language organisations across Haida Gwaii
♦ Expanding opportunities for Haida Partial Immersion
♦ Connecting with artists, story tellers, and other role models to promote traditional and modern skills with our students
♦ Ensuring all classes embrace local content and relevant resources
♦ Continue to refine our commitment to or Enhancement Agreement and other partnerships
Moving forward

There is great work happening in School District 50, and much more to come! Accompanying this document is our Operational Plan, an extensive look at our specific plans for our schools, our budget process, our policy manual, and other important items.

At the core of this, is our commitment to make sure the District’s resources are focused on student achievement. To this end, we want to ensure the best pedagogy, materials and resources, and technological innovations available to staff and students across the District. This means sound fiscal policy, reducing and streamlining our policies and procedures, and giving principals and teachers access to resources to continue to innovate.

The Board of Education also has plans around our physical buildings and the future direction of education on Haida Gwaii. Again, details can be found in our Five Year Operational Plan.

A Community Working Together

As we move ahead, we want to hear from you. This is a living document, and as such we will continue to adjust the course of our District as we receive your feedback.

‘Everything is connected’ (Haida Versions)