

Sup Sept 2025 Report

Welcome Back

Time flies! We are already in the second week of school start up. I'd like to start this evening with a sincere thank you to our staff across the district for the many, many preparations they made in advance of our students arriving back at school. The facilities and tech teams worked tirelessly this summer cleaning schools, finalizing annual facilities improvements, advancing devices and tech systems, and advancing capital projects. Our Human Resource department worked on overdrive this summer to ensure roles were filled and teachers were in place ready to receive their students. Education and transportation staff returned with plans underway to support students in their transitions to new grade levels, new schools, and new friends and staff. We are all excited for this new school year together. Welcome Back everyone!

Ombudsperson Investigation

Across the province, school districts will continue to support the Ombudsperson's investigation into student exclusion. Some school districts will have staff from the Ombudsperson office come in for observations and interviews. We have not been notified that we will be among those, at this time.

Ministry of Education and Child Care Updates

New Policy Requirements

The MECC announced a new Policy requirement for school districts. We are being required to have a district policy or administrative procedure outlining our response to unexpected health concerns, such as the use of Naloxone Kits and AEDs. These new policies are due by Dec 31, 2025. We will bring our policy forward this fall and will continue to have these devices and trained staff in all of our schools.

School districts are also required to have a 'Challenge Process' Policy or administrative procedure outlining the district's process for dealing with formal challenges against the materials being selected for use in the educational setting. This often looks like books or visual materials that some constituents want removed from classrooms and libraries. We will outline our process for those considerations over the next school year, as well.

Cybersecurity

We can all expect to hear and learn more about cybersecurity as a priority across our sector. The MECC will be providing more resources and support to enhance this over time. We have a small but very adept tech team that keeps us at the forefront of these important changes over time.

Curriculum Changes

There are some important Curriculum changes with implementation effective this school year. Issues of the Holocaust are now embedded in Social Studies 10. And, Physical and Health Education 10 now includes CPR & AED training.

New Kindergarten Screener

The MECC has announced a new requirement for school districts to institute a Kindergarten Literacy Screener. The intention is to scan kindergarten students for their understanding and knowledge of common literacy tools such as their phonological awareness, knowledge of phonemes, letter recognition and sounds, etc. and then for teachers to plan forward from there. The MECC has created criteria for those screeners and will be standardizing one provincial screener by next school year. They also anticipate requiring a standardized K to 3 screener soon. You will find our district's action plan toward this in our SD50 Operational Plan.

Education for Human Flourishing

The MECC has been working with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) towards an understanding of Education for Human Flourishing. The next phase of their work is related to new assessments of competencies to support the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). The launch of this work is anticipated in 2029.

Expansion of Child Care on School Grounds

The MECC continues to announce early learning as a priority of the current government. Currently we are being oriented toward the expansion of child care programming on school grounds.

Workforce Supports

The MECC is working with post secondary partners to update Education Assistant training programs through a new Provincial Framework. They are also taking steps toward decreasing the processing time for out of province teachers (14 days) and out of country (5 to 9 months) teachers to become BC Certified.

New Ministry of Infrastructure

This new Ministry, affectionately being referred to as the Ministry of Hammers and Hardhats, has been created to support expediency and efficiencies related to capital projects. We can all expect to hear more about Standardized Designs and Modular or Prefabrication Applications for new building projects.

Indigenous Education

The Ministry also warned of changes to federal funding access by public schools for Indigenous education programs. It is likely, for example, that districts and schools should anticipate fewer approvals through the Jordan's Principle process.

School District Updates

Student Enrolment

Deputy Superintendent, Manu Madhok has prepared an enrolment report to reflect student enrolment across Haida Gwaii last week. A very preliminary scan of our student numbers indicates a steady enrolment of approximately 500 students again this school year. Of significance is that ALM has seen an approximate 20% jump in their numbers. While this is only a small handful of students, it does mean we will likely be opening a second classroom rather than the anticipated one classroom scheduled for this year. Those adjustments are being made over last and this week.

Operational Plan Report

No Motion - Working Document Live on Website

As you can see by the long list of plans we have made, there are many actions and initiatives planned across the district this year. We've included some items accomplished from last year, and also some ideas about future planning, to share the operational plan a bit more like a story of progress over time - where we've been and where we're going. I'll share some of the highlights or more significant changes to our plan.

Student Well Being

Toward the goal of Student Wellbeing, we would like to welcome two new roles to the district this school year. Both are being paid for through MECC grant funding. One role is the Communication Skills Specialist Teacher role. These will be two .2 positions and are being filled by Jacqui Ferraby and Marci Malloy. The other role is a Mental Health Specialist Teacher role. This .2 position is being filled by Pamela Richardson. We are excited to have these teachers step up to provide leadership in our district toward many important initiatives as outlined in our Operational Plan for 2025 / 2026.

Embracing Unique Culture and Territory

District Principal Joanne Yovanovich has worked closely with Dr Sara Davidson and Dr Cynthia Nicol to offer a new learning series to staff. Their focus will be on enriching our Learning with Stories, Land, and Language from Haida Gwaii! This is being offered as a Four-Part Learning Series with Dr. Sara Davidson, Dr. Cynthia Nicol, Joanne Yovanovich and local educators and Knowledge Holders. Staff may wish to attend the series in full or in part.

Working Together

Working together is embedded in all that we do as a school district. We also always want to collaborate more deeply and with more people as we learn and grow. We look forward to supporting the Haida Education Council as they navigate the development of new Terms of Reference and provide our school district with critical input. Another particular highlight this year will be working with the Port Clements Elementary School PAC and staff to develop a new School Learning Plan with their desire to attract more students in mind.

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Report for MECC

Motion Needed September 9, 2025

Several years ago, the MECC adopted a new FESL Policy requiring Boards of Education to report annually on student learning and health indicators, their strategic and operational plans to improve those results, their approach to consultation and collaboration, and their approach to continuous improvement. For the past years Boards of Education have been required to complete a long report and a provincial committee would assess those reports and provide feedback to us. Having moved the districts along to a pattern of demonstrated improvement and continuous improvement cycles, the MECC has moved to a three year cycle for these long reports. From now on, districts will complete the long report once every three years and a shorter snapshot for the two interim years. SD50 has been assigned the shorter snapshot for completion this year. Our Deputy Superintendent, Manu Madhok has completed this interim report for Board approval this evening. Manu is currently creating a public facing Fountas and Pinnell Report which he will add into this FESL Report before we submit it to the MECC. Manu is asking for your approval of this report tonight with the understanding that he will add that additional information soon.

Literacy Professional Learning Plans for MECC

In Progress - Board Motion October 14, 2025

Late last school year, the MECC announced funding to support school districts with improving literacy results for BC students. SD50 will receive approximately \$247,000 from this grant. In order to receive these funds, each school district must create and submit a **two year literacy professional learning plan**. In June, the MECC also announced a new requirement to implement a **Kindergarten Screener** across all schools. In order to incorporate that new requirement into the professional learning plans, the ministry has extended the literacy professional learning plan submission **deadline to October 17, 2025**. The ministry also plans to provide an ongoing Community of Practice (CoP) series for school district participation beginning on October 2, 2025. We will endeavour to collaborate further on this plan in advance of the October 17th due date and bring the final version to the **October 14, 2025 public board meeting** for a Board Motion and subsequent submission to the MECC.