

HEALTH PROMOTION IN SCHOOLS

Background

The District recognizes schools play a role, as part of a larger community, to promote health for their students. The District recognizes an important connection between health and the many benefits to students, including a student's ability to learn, grow, and maintain good health. West Vancouver schools promote health by striving to provide:

- healthy physical and social environments.
- effective teaching and learning to achieve the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be healthy.
- strong partnerships with the health sector and other community services contributing to wellness.

Through attention to each of these areas the District acknowledges the unique position schools play in being able to directly influence students' health.

Procedures

1. The Superintendent (or designate) will chair the Healthy Schools Committee with representatives from all stakeholder groups and Vancouver Coastal Health. This group will help guide and coordinate the implementation of procedures and initiatives related to health promotion in schools. This group will meet on a regular basis throughout the school year.
2. The *Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools* will be followed and promoted. These guidelines apply to food and beverages **sold** to students in all school locations, including vending machines, school stores and cafeterias, school fundraisers, special occasions, and events sponsored by the Parent Advisory Council.
3. Schools will work to ensure health curricular areas, as prescribed through Ministry of Education learning outcomes, are being followed and, where possible, partnerships that inform and enhance instruction in health curricular areas are developed and maintained.
4. Health promoting schools will include the entire school environment, including its physical and social environments to ensure a safe and healthy school environment exists with access to: healthy foods and beverages, nutrition services, health services, counselling, psychological services and health promotion for staff and students.
5. The District, and individual schools, will seek to ensure supports and services are in place to help students be physically and emotionally healthy. Further partnerships beyond the school community that contribute to health promotion in the school setting will continue to be developed and maintained.

Legal Reference: Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools (September 2007)