

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5
SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Environmental and Outdoor Education



September 2026

Environmental and Outdoor Education

Highlights

-  Promoted and supported course registrations for *4 Seasons of Learning* to support staff in continuing their learning towards reconciliation
-  Purchased 86 Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN) memberships for any interested staff
-  54 Wild voices for Kids programs were delivered to 1081 Southeast Kootenay students in the 2025/26 school year. Wild voices is a unique program in the Columbia Basin that enables local specialists to develop programs connected to the local environment and deliver these directly to students, creating opportunities for learning with the land and introducing students to local experts.
-  Promoted the Environmental Education Leadership Clinic at Nipika in April 2026
-  Distributed leadership and risk management through Youth Safe Outdoors
-  Presented on KBEE at the Outdoor Learning Leadership Conference, an international outdoor leadership opportunity for systems-level leaders

Focus

-  Field Leader (Hiking) Course - Outdoor Council of Canada, a two-day professional development opportunity that provides the foundation for learning judgement and decision-making and enabling the leadership of safe and enjoyable experiences outside
-  Outdoor Learning Certification Program - Take Me Outside, a 30-hour course for kindergarten to grade twelve educators that teaches how to integrate the outdoor into teaching practices
-  Place-based micro-grants to schools to support place-based learning in kindergarten to grade six and place-based learning or outdoor education pursuits in grades seven through twelve
-  Building outdoor classrooms at district elementary schools

Summary

The District's Environmental and Outdoor Education initiatives support the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning outcomes by advancing reconciliation, sustainability, and student engagement through experiential learning. Investments in professional development, including memberships, leadership clinics, and national conferences, build staff capacity to integrate environmental and outdoor learning into classrooms, directly enhancing the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning's Intellectual Development Goals 1 and 2 through hands-on, inquiry-based literacy and numeracy experiences. Place-based micro-grants, outdoor classrooms and partnerships with Youth Safe Outdoors, the Outdoor Council of Canada, and Take Me Outside strengthen safety, leadership, and inclusivity, aligning with the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Human and Social Development Goals 1 and 2 by fostering student well-being, connection to land, and positive mental health.

