

DISTANCE EDUCATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Background

The District recognizes that students who are registered in either a Distributed Learning course/program or a Continuing Education course/program through the District are entitled to access or involvement in public school programs and activities offered in their community schools.

Definitions

Continuing Education:

Continuing Education encompasses courses and programs done for Graduation or Adult Graduation at sites that are not necessarily traditional Secondary Schools. While the courses can be the same courses as those delivered at Secondary Schools, there is not an expectation that they are delivered in the same manner as at Secondary Schools. Examples from around the province include Hairdressing Studios and Construction Projects. Adult learners who wish to pursue more traditional course completion (not Distributed Learning) would do so by registering in Continuing Education. Learners must be 16 years of age to enroll in Continuing Education.

Distributed/Online Learning:

Online & Distributed Learning is a classroom alternative. In this style of learning, students can connect with their teacher from home and work towards meeting the goals of their education program as outlined in their learning plan. This approach is called distributed learning (DL).

Teachers use a variety of tools to connect with their students. This includes online voice and video calls, email, instant messages, phone calls and others. Every DL school provides a teacher who works with each student to:

- Plan and deliver a course of study
- Get course textbooks and resources
- Assess student progress and complete a report card

Students can choose to complete an entire program via distributed learning or partner it with other learning options like in-person classes, blended classrooms or homeschooling.

Homeschooling

Homeschooling is a classroom alternative offered outside the B.C. educational system. Typically, a family member delivers the entire educational program to children at home.

Homeschooling programs are not Distributed Learning or Continuing Education programs offered through the District.

Descriptions

Kootenay Learning Campus

The Kootenay Learning Campus is the school that all Continuing Education students will be registered in regardless of location in the school district. There is a necessary face-to-face component to Continuing Education that separates it from Distributed Learning. Continuing Education can be a separate site educational opportunity for any student 16 years of age or older- Graduated, non-Graduated, School-Aged or Adult.

Kootenay Discovery School

The Kootenay Discovery School is the school that all Distributed/Online Learning students will be registered in regardless of location in the school district or in the province. There is the ability to received face-to-face support currently in two of our communities for Distributed/Online Learning students in Cranbrook and in Fernie at the Kootenay Learning Campus building.

The Kootenay Discovery School can register and offer programs to students in all grades (K-12) on a full time or course by course basis. Much like Continuing Education, Kootenay Discover School can register students regardless of age or graduated status- Graduated, non-Graduated, School-Aged or Adult.

Students in the Graduation Years (grades 10-12) can also be cross-enrolled with a Secondary School, meaning that courses can be done in both schools concurrently or consecutively.

Procedures

1. Distributed or Continuing Education – Students who are registered with Kootenay Discovery School or Kootenay Learning Campus for courses or programs can supplement that instruction by participating in public school programs or activities, as follows:
 - 1.1. Access to mutually agreed upon co-curricular activities such as library privileges, cultural events, District Resource Centre, and/or curricular and extra-curricular activities.
 - 1.2. Principals will maintain an updated list of opportunities available to students at Kootenay Discovery School or Kootenay Learning Campus.
 - 1.3. Kootenay Discovery School or Kootenay Learning Campus will be responsible for communicating to parents of school aged children, the opportunities available to students registered in Distance Education or Continuing Education.
 - 1.4. Kootenay Discovery School or Kootenay Learning Campus will be responsible for working with public schools in the District to develop shared opportunities for students registered in Distance Education or Continuing Education.
 - 1.5. Parents with school aged students registered in Kootenay Discovery School who are interested in extension or enrichment activities in a particular theme and grade level are encouraged to contact the teacher(s) working in the Kootenay Discovery School. It will be the responsibility of the Discovery Program staff to contact principals in the community and determine the educational opportunities that are available.

- 1.6. It is the responsibility of the Discovery Program or Kootenay Learning Campus to work with the parents and community schools to determine the additional supports or expectations that may be required during student participation in school programs or events. This additional support may include: parental supervision during a classroom or school activity, prior orientation visits or background information such as fire drill expectations and possible physical supports such as wheelchair access or lifts.
- 1.7. If there is a dispute over access to public school programs or opportunities, parents of students registered in Distance or Continuing Education may refer to [Policy 14 Appeals Procedure Bylaw](#).
- 1.8. Principals may grant the parent request that a student be permitted to attend a co-curricular activity provided a suitable program, resources, space and facilities are available at the requested school.

2. Calendar of Events

- 2.1. Each Principal in the District circulates a school newsletter within which is a calendar of school events.
 - 2.1.1. An electronic copy of the newsletters will be sent to the Discovery Program and the staff will combine that information and circulate the document to parents and students registered with the Discovery Program.
- 2.2. If a parent would like to add the advertised activity to their student's learning opportunities, the parent can approach the Principal directly or work with the Discovery Staff.

Reference: Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 20, 22, 23, 65, 74.1, 75, 85 School Act
Collective Agreements

Approved: April 12, 2011
Revised: August 15, 2021