



Vancouver Board of Education

District Alternative Resource Programs

February 2012

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FOREWORD:

The Vancouver Board of Education (School District No. 39) believes that the neighbourhood school is of prime importance in the delivery of educational services. The neighbourhood school is entrusted to ensure quality instruction and strong programs in all prescribed curriculum areas. Neighbourhood schools provide a sound educational foundation by addressing the needs and wishes of most students and their parents through their curricular programs.

Although the Board believes that the neighbourhood school is central in meeting the educational needs of parents and their children, it recognizes that parents, students, community members and staff may request alternative programs at the district level.

The Vancouver District offers 23 Alternative Resource Programs in addition to six Adult Education Centres. The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize you with the variety of programs, supports, and goals that exist in the alternative programs. The District also employs three District Youth and Family Workers to support students/families who have become disengaged with the educational system and who require school and program placement at the secondary level. They are located at

Spectrum Learning Centre
2530 East 43rd Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5R 2Y7
604-713-5932

Robert Denley
cell: 778-228-1767

Val Zwicker
cell: 778-228-1667

Wendy Ryan
cell: 778-233-8476
(Connections with Aboriginal Youth,
Family and Community Services)

District Alternative Resource Programs:

Alternative Resource Programs provide an environment that includes additional support for students. Teachers use a variety of instructional methods designed to meet the academic needs of students. In addition the program staff is dedicated to working individually and in groups to address the social, emotional, behavioural and mental health needs of students.

In most cases students referred to the alternative programs should meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the “R” or “H” category (Students Requiring Behaviour Intervention or students with Mental Health concerns).

Each program offers an application package detailing information regarding the referral process. Please contact your neighbourhood school counsellor or the programs directly to obtain an application. Parent/Guardians will be notified directly from the program staff with regard to the status of applications.

Inter-agency Alternative Programs:

The Inter-agency programs are jointly funded by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). These programs are for students whose needs cannot be met within the setting of the neighbourhood secondary school or District Alternative Resource Programs. These programs are designed for students who demonstrate behavioral difficulties and “at risk” behaviours which may affect their learning, interpersonal relationships and /or personal adjustment over a prolonged period of time. These students meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the “H” category (Students Requiring Intensive Behaviour Intervention or students with Serious Mental Health concerns).

Referrals from MCFD or an Aboriginal delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Hamber House is a partnership between the Vancouver Board of Education and Vancouver Community Child and Youth Health Services. Potential students are referred to Hamber House through their psychiatrist or mental health team.

The West Coast Alternative Program is a partnership with the Vancouver Board of Education, Pacific Community Resources and Vancouver Coastal Health. Referrals to the West Coast Alternative Program are submitted to the VSB Central Screening Committee.

Adult Education Centres:

The Vancouver Board of Education currently operates six Adult Education Centres open to youth 16 years of age and older. Students must be 16 years of age as of July 1st of the current school year. These Centres provide educational opportunities ranging from beginning literacy to secondary school completion.

The emphasis of the Adult Education Centres is on providing flexible and accessible programs. Students can enroll on an ongoing basis and programs are designed and adjusted to meet individual learning needs. Students whose educational background requires Special Education assistance are not suitable for the programs as support services available throughout the K-12 system are not available in Adult Education.

To register, all potential students are required to meet with the instructor or a designated Youth Program Advisor. A referral from a counsellor or administrator and completion of an English and Math assessment are required for acceptance.

Graduation Options

A 2004 Graduation Program (Dogwood) is required for students who have entered grade 10 for the first time since 2004. Students must acquire 80 credits at the grade 10, 11 and 12 levels and required to write five graduation program exams. Graduation program exams are mandatory for every course in the following subject areas: Language Arts 10, Science 10, Mathematics 10, Social Studies 11 or Civics 11 or B.C. First Nations Studies 12 and Language Arts 12. Please refer to page iv “At a Glance Requirements – What You Need to Graduate” or visit www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad2004.htm

The Adult Graduation Program (Adult Dogwood) is open to students who are 19 or older or in a few cases who are 18 with exceptional circumstances. This program requires a student to successfully complete 20 credits that must include English or Communications 12 and a Math 11. To be eligible for the adult Dogwood, the student must take at least three of their courses leading towards graduation as an adult (19 years of age or older).

The School Completion Certificate Program is open to students for whom the other graduation options are not academically realistic. In order to receive a School Completion Certificate, a student must complete the goals of their Individual Education Plan (IEP) which includes academic, personal, pre-employment and career components.

At a Glance Requirements - What You Need to Graduate

In order to graduate with a Dogwood, every student in the Graduation Program has to pass certain basic courses, like English, mathematics and science. The table below is an overview of what you need to graduate:

- 48 credits from required courses,
- 4 credits from Graduation Transitions.

Graduation requirements are introduced in your Planning 10 class. For more help, talk to your teacher or school counsellor, and refer to the [Grad Planner](#) for more details.

- 28 credits from elective courses, and

REQUIRED COURSES:	
Subject Area	Minimum Credits
Planning 10	4
a Language Arts 10	4
a Language Arts 11	4
a Language Arts 12	4
a Mathematics 10	4
a Mathematics 11 or 12	4
a Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12	4
Social Studies 10	4
a Social Studies 11 or 12	4
Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12	4
Physical Education 10	4
	48 credits
ELECTIVE COURSES:	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits.	Minimum Credits
Additional Grade 10-12 credits*	28 credits
GRADUATION TRANSITIONS	
Students must earn 4 credits for Graduation Transitions	4 credits
OVERALL TOTAL:	80 credits
*Of the 80 credits for graduation, at least 16 must be at the Grade 12 level, including a Grade 12 Language Arts course. Others may be required or elective courses.	

**JUNIOR ALTERNATIVE
PROGRAMS**

8J/9J PROGRAM

Address: 1001 Cotton Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3T4
Telephone: 604-713-8266
Fax: 604-713-8265
Administering School: Britannia Secondary School

Program Description:

The 8J/9J Alternative Program is a semestered, academic fine arts program located in a portable classroom on the grounds of Britannia Secondary School. 8J/9J is a three-year program enrolling students in grades 8, 9 and 10. The Fine Arts component includes both Visual and Performing Arts and has proven to be an important part of the curriculum offered. Individual, small group and class achievements in Fine Arts have significantly contributed to the students' sense of accomplishment and self-esteem.

Student Profile:

8J/9J targets inner city youth aged 13 to 16 with strong academic and artistic abilities who have experienced difficulty in the mainstream school setting.

Academic Goal:

At 8J/9J students can complete grades 8, 9 and 10. Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

Referral Process:

Students are required to complete an application form which can be acquired from Britannia Secondary. Students are required to complete the Canadian Achievement Test and obtain a minimum score that would be equivalent to a Grade 5 level. Students are required to indicate their motivation and suitability in an interview. Fall Term: September to the end of January with intake in the preceding June. Spring Term: February to June with intake in the preceding January.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

8J/9J enrolls 22 students and has 1 Teacher, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

EAST SIDE PROGRAM

Address: 3001 East Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5K 2K8
Telephone: 604-713-5858
Fax: 604-713-5857
Administering School: Templeton Secondary School

Program Description:

The East Side Program is an off-site district Alternative Program which creates a structured, supportive and stimulating environment that promotes social and recreational skills as well as academics. Grade 9 and 10 core subjects are offered to students aged 14-17 years. Physical Education, community building and outdoor education are essential elements of the program. Electives offered include Visual Arts, Sports and Recreation, Foods and Nutrition, Film Studies and Hip Hop.

Student Profile:

East Side is frequently a successful alternative placement for students who may have a combination of the following issues:

- need smaller academic setting and more one-to-one assistance;
- have been impacted by family or personal crises;
- need their attendance and punctuality more closely monitored;
- need to form new peer groups and better school habits;
- need to work in a more supportive, structured setting which allows for a focus on social and emotional connections.

Academic Goal:

At East Side students can complete grade 9 and 10. Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/guardian, and program staff. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

Referral Process:

The two major intake periods are June and January, however intake is continuous as space becomes available. Students are required to complete an application form which can be acquired from the East Side Program.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

East Side enrolls 34 students and has 2 Teachers, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM (“Finding Your own Balance”)

Address: 2530 A East 43rd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5R 2Y7
Telephone: 604-713-5450 Fax: 604-713-5998
Administering School: Killarney Secondary School

Program Description:

The Foundation Program is an academic and recreational program that enrolls students in grade 8 and 9. The program focuses on students whose behavior has impacted their ability to function academically, socially, and emotionally and who require intervention beyond the regular school's resources. The program challenges students to become more accountable and take responsibility for their actions and choices. Students learn skills that allow them to cope with stressful situations and to communicate in more constructive ways. Through community outings and volunteer experiences, students create ties to the community and experience success in areas of their lives where they have previously failed. Through these successes they build self esteem and become better overall citizens. The ability to utilize public transit is an essential component of the community recreation and volunteer program.

Student Profile:

Foundation is an appropriate alternative placement for students who may have a combination of the following issues:

- Need smaller academic setting and more one-to-one assistance;
- Need a more supportive transition from elementary to high school;
- Have been impacted by family or personal crises;
- Need their attendance and punctuality more closely monitored;
- Need to form new peer groups and better school habits;
- Need to work in a more supportive, structured setting which allows for a focus on social and emotional connections.

Academic Goal:

At Foundation students can complete grade 8, 9 and 10. Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

Referral Process:

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Students are required to complete an application form that can be acquired from the Foundation Program. Students are required to complete the Canadian Achievement Test (CAT) and obtain a minimum score that would be equivalent to a grade 5 level in Math and English. Call the Youth and Family Worker to book an orientation session and assessment.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Foundation enrolls 22 students and has 1 Teacher, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

STREETFRONT PROGRAM

Address: 1001 Cotton Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3T4
Telephone: 604-713-8272
Fax: 604-713-8265
Administering School: Britannia Secondary School

Program Description:

Streetfront is an active alternative program located on the northwest corner of the Britannia Secondary School site. There is a strong physical aspect to the curriculum; running three times a week, regular gym sessions, swimming and weight training, along with hiking, camping, canoeing, and Nordic skiing. Students must be willing and able to fully participate in all activities. Streetfront offers core academics (Social Studies, English, Math, Science, and Planning 10) with carefully monitored assignments and attendance. Attendance and work completion are crucial to a student's success at Streetfront.

Student Profile:

The Streetfront Program is designed for Grade 8 (repeating), Grade 9 and Grade 10 students who are capable of age appropriate grade level work, but are not succeeding due to a myriad of issues. Students must be interested in physical activity and willing to participate in all activities.

Academic Goal:

At Streetfront students can complete grades 8 - 10. Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/caregivers, and program staff. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the staff is dedicated to working with students to provide social and emotional support. Through growth in self-confidence, peer relations and academic achievement, students' transition from Grade 10 back to a mainstream secondary school or proceed to a senior alternative program to complete their graduation requirements.

Referral Process:

Application and interview periods take place in September, January, and June. Applications are welcome throughout the school year to fill any vacant spots. Referrals are accepted from administrators, counsellors, Youth and Family Workers, and other educational personal. Students are required to set up an appointment for an interview once their application has been processed and the home school counsellor has been notified. Once screening is completed, the parents/caregivers and home schools are notified as to the outcome of the application. A probationary two week trial period is recommended prior to students being formally accepted and transferred from their home school.

Application forms can be downloaded from <http://Britannia.vsb.bc.ca/deparments/streetfront.htm>

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Streetfront enrolls 22 students and has 1 Teacher, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

SUNRISE EAST PROGRAM

Address: 3001 East Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5K 2K8
Telephone: 604-713-5800
Fax: 604-713-5801
Administering School: Templeton Secondary School

Program Description:

Sunrise East is a grade nine program designed to re-engage students in school. Emphasis is placed on creating a safe supportive learning environment where regular counselling support is provided to students. Field trips and recreational outings aim to broaden students' experiences of the larger community and increase their confidence, competence and safety when travelling in the Vancouver area.

Student Profile:

The Sunrise East Program is designed for students 15 years of age or younger. Students must have completed Grade 8 or received a Standing Granted. A commitment to attending regularly is required.

Academic Goal:

Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. The core academic courses, English, Social Studies, Math and Science are adapted or modified to meet the student's needs. Physical Education, Health and Career Education and off campus explorations are also included in the schedule. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

Referral Process:

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted for students 15 years and younger from counsellors, administrators and other educational personal. All candidates are interviewed by staff and appropriate applicants will be placed on a waitlist until space becomes available.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Sunrise East enrolls 16 students and has 1 Teacher and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

TUPPER ALTERNATE PROGRAM

Address: 419 East 24th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5V 2A2
Telephone: 604-713-8242
Fax: 604-713-8232
Administering School: Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School

Program Description:

Tupper Alternate (TAP) has been created to maximize opportunity for successes in academic and personal growth for grade 8 and 9 students. TAP is located within Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School and allows for the immersion of students into the Tupper school culture. Students have access to team sports, clubs, resources, and active support and guidance of the school administration. Students are taught all academic subjects by the Tupper Alternate teacher and may be integrated in the main school for some of their elective courses. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

Student Profile:

Tupper Alternate is designed primarily for students who have had some difficulty in their regular classroom situation and require a more supportive transition from elementary to secondary school. These students are often in need of a smaller class setting and require moderate behavioural or social and emotional support.

Academic Goal:

The goal is for students to successfully complete grade 9. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. Student progress is managed through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). After completing grade 9, students will return to their neighbourhood school or be recommended to another district alternative program.

Referral Process:

The program will only enroll new grade 8 students with the understanding that they will stay in the program for grade 9. Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Referrals are accepted anytime although the main intake for the program commences in March for the following September. For a copy of the application form please call the Youth and Family Worker. Completed referral forms are to be submitted to the Youth and Family Worker. Once the applications are processed the referring party will be contacted to arrange a screening meeting. All successful applicants will then be placed on a wait list.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Tupper Alternate enrolls 18 students and has 1 Teacher, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

VINERY PROGRAM

Address: 2275 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6K 2J1
Telephone: 604-713-4571
Fax: 604-713-4598
Administering School: Kitsilano Secondary School

Program Description:

The Vinery Program provides a safe, supportive and nurturing educational environment to at-risk, emotionally fragile students. The program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their emotional, social and academic needs. Students are offered an opportunity to study an individualized, self-paced educational program. In addition to the core academic subjects the Vinery Program offers various group activities including a Personal Awareness Program, an Arts and Community Program, and a Fitness Program.

Student Profile:

The Vinery Program is designed primarily for students who are between the ages of 13-15 (grade 8 to 10) and who are at-risk of dropping out of school or who have already dropped out. The Vinery Program is not appropriate for youth who experience severe behavioral difficulties or severe learning disabilities.

Academic Goal:

At the Vinery students can complete grades 8, 9 and 10 in the core subject areas. Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their emotional, social and academic needs. Upon completion of the Vinery Program, students are encouraged to continue their education in a setting most suited to their individual needs.

Referral Process:

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. A Vinery Program Referral requesting placement must be submitted to the Youth and Family Worker at the Vinery. Referrals are accepted for students less than sixteen years of age from counsellors, administrators and other educational professionals. All referrals are reviewed to determine program suitability relative to individual student needs. The Youth and Family Worker will arrange an intake interview with the student and his/her parent/guardian. An "Application Portfolio" is then compiled and presented to the Vinery Selection Committee which meets monthly. All successful applicants will then be placed on a wait list.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

The Vinery enrolls 22 students and has 1 Teacher, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

THE WEST PROGRAM

Address: 2530 B East 43rd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5R 2Y7
Telephone: 604-713-5069
Fax: 604-713-5998
Administering School: Killarney Secondary School

Program Description:

The West Program is a Grade 9 and 10 off site alternative program that is part of Killarney Secondary School.

Student Profile:

Students must have completed Grade 8. If repeating, they may have 1 or 2 grade 8 subjects near completion and are between 14 – 16 years of age. They must be at grade 5 or 6 level minimum in Math and English (CAT test). The West Alternative Program is designed for students who are having difficulty functioning or being successful in a regular school setting and who require additional social, emotional, or academic support.

Academic Goal:

At the West Program students can complete grades 9 and 10. Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. The core academic courses are adapted to meet the student's needs. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

Referral Process:

Intake takes place in September and in January of each school year although intake is continuous as space become available. Students are required to complete an application form. In some cases, testing is required to determine the student's academic level. Perspective students are asked to phone the West office to complete an application and set up an intake interview. All candidates are interviewed by staff and appropriate applicants will be placed on a waitlist until space becomes available.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

The West Program enrolls 22 students and has 1 Teacher, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

SENIOR ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

OUTREACH PROGRAM

Address: 1001 Cotton Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3T4
Telephone: 604-713-5911
Fax: 604-713-5730
Administering School: Britannia Secondary School

Program Description:

The Outreach Program is located in two portables on the Britannia Secondary School site. Outreach is an alternative program for students of Aboriginal heritage, who wish to improve their academic and social/emotional skills, prepare for post secondary programs and complete courses leading to a B.C. Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood Certificate). Outreach offers a continuous progress program. Classes are small and structured with academic support available. Outreach students can access counseling, life skills training, and a rich aboriginal cultural component. Students are given opportunities to engage in community initiatives

Student Profile:

The Outreach Program is designed for students of Aboriginal Ancestry who are between the ages of 15-19, grade 10 to 12.

Academic Goal:

Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/caregivers and program staff. At Outreach students can complete grades 10- 12. Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the staff is dedicated to working with students to provide social, emotional and cultural support. Outreach can assist students to access post secondary education or employment opportunities when they transition from the program.

Referral Process:

An Outreach Program Referral requesting placement must be submitted to the Youth and Family Worker at Outreach. Referrals are accepted for students 15 -19 years of age from Aboriginal Support Workers, Youth and Family Workers, counsellors, administrators and self referrals. The Youth and Family Worker will arrange an intake interview with the student and his/her parents/caregivers. After the interview all successful applicants will be placed on a waitlist until space becomes available. Outreach operates on a semester system. Intakes occur in September, November, February, April and June.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Outreach enrolls 30 students and has 2 Teachers and 2 Youth and Family Workers.

SPECTRUM LEARNING CENTRE

Address: 2530 East 43rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5R 2Y7
Telephone: 604-713-5722
Fax: 604-713-5721
Administering School: Killarney Secondary School

Program Description:

Spectrum is a semestered senior secondary alternative program. The primary goal of Spectrum is to provide students with an opportunity to complete grades 10, 11 and 12 in an alternative setting. Students have the opportunity to complete 5 courses each semester. Classes are 60 minutes in length. Academic Classes are scheduled in the morning and electives in the afternoon. Youth and Family Workers are available to provide social and emotional support to students and their families/caregivers, and to liaise with social agencies. Spectrum offers a lunch program and implemented by students.

Student Profile:

Spectrum is for students who have completed Grade 9 and are between the ages of 15 and 18. Students who are most likely to be successful at Spectrum are those who have the academic skills necessary for graduation but need the additional support offered by an alternative program. Students who are willing to work hard and accept the structure including a strict lateness and attendance policy inherent in a semestered system will succeed.

Academic Goal:

The curriculum focuses on academic and elective courses leading to a BC Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood), potentially fulfilling post-secondary entrance requirements.

Application Process:

Spectrum operates on a semester system. The first semester is from September to January. The second semester is from February to June. The intake for the first semester is conducted in May, June and September. The intake for the second semester is conducted in December, January and February. Referrals are accepted from counsellors, administrators, Youth and Family Workers, Social Workers, parents/caregivers etc. Prospective students are asked to phone the Spectrum office to obtain a referral and set up an intake interview. Students are requested to bring their birth certificate and a recent report card from the last school they attended. Following the interview an appointment will be made to complete an assessment in Math and English. Students will be notified as to their acceptance approximately two weeks after writing the assessment.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

The program has 7 teachers, 2 Youth and Family Workers, 2 Alternative Program Workers and 1 Secretary. There is capacity for 95 students.

TAKE A HIKE PROGRAM

Address: 530 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5W 1P3
Telephone: 604-713-8243
Fax: 604-713-8937
Administering School: John Oliver Secondary School

Program Description:

The Take a Hike program is a unique program made possible by a partnership between the Take a Hike Youth at Risk Foundation and the Vancouver Board of Education. The program is based at John Oliver Secondary School and focuses on at-risk youth aged 15-19, grades 10-12. Take a Hike operates on a semester system. The first semester runs from September to January. The second semester runs from February to June. The purpose of the program is to assist students who have been unable to achieve success in mainstream classes to develop the positive behaviours and attributes they need to become healthy, productive citizens. It is a three year program drawing on the principles of experiential learning – that students learn and grow best through first hand experience, and that there is a need for balance between academic requirements and adventure-based activities.

The program is specifically designed to address the learning difficulties and social/emotional needs of youth who are not able to cope in regular high school classes. The adventure-based component uses outdoor and adventure-based activities to enhance established academic and personal objectives. Students will be guided through simple group and individual tasks to situations requiring more complex skills. The adventure-based activities will include activities such as canoeing, hiking, backpacking, orienteering, camping, snow shoeing, ropes courses and trust exercises. Group and individual counseling is used to provide students with opportunities to learn new coping skills.

Student Profile:

The Take a Hike Program is designed primarily for students who are between the ages of 15-19, grades 10-12 and who are at-risk of dropping out of school or who have already dropped out.

Academic Goal:

The academic program is self-paced, and provides credits for Grade 10 through 12. Students will receive a School Leaving Certificate or a B.C. Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood Certificate). In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

Referral Process:

Referral may be made by a counsellor, a Youth and Family Worker, an administrator, or a parent/guardian. Application forms are available from John Oliver Secondary or online at www.takeahikefoundation.org/studentintake and should be submitted to the Youth and Family Workers. Applicants will be interviewed, and notified of their status. Upon acceptance to the program, students must sign a Medical Clearance Form before attending classes.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Take a Hike enrolls 40 students and has 2 Teachers, 2 Youth and Family Workers, 1 Outdoor Education Specialist and 2 Clinical Therapists.

TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Address: 425 E. 29th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5V 2R8
Telephone: 604-713-5782
Fax: 604-713-5784
Administering School: Eric Hamber Secondary School

Program Description:

Total Education is a district wide senior secondary alternative program. The program's name reflects its philosophy that broader support for social development and lifestyle management enhances academic success. Teaching methods recognize individual learning styles and life experiences. Youth and Family Workers are available to provide further support to students and their families/caregivers, and to liaise with social agencies.

Student Profile:

Students are Vancouver residents aged 16 -19. While the program emphasizes grade 11-12, there is some accommodation for completing grade 10 courses. The program is designed for students who have experienced academic, social or emotional challenges. Students who are successful at Total Education tend to have a supportive home environment that fosters regular school attendance, tend to be motivated to graduate, strong in the arts, and who are seeking community (as opposed to self-paced) learning.

Academic Goal:

The curriculum focuses on academic and elective courses leading to a BC Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood), potentially fulfilling post-secondary entrance requirements.

Application Process:

Total Education operates on a semester system. The first semester runs from September to January and the second semester from February to June. Application sessions begin in November and April. Students can be referred by administrators, counsellors or support workers. For more information or to refer a student, phone the Total Education Office at 604-713-5782.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

The program has 7 teachers, 3 Youth and Family Workers, 1 secretary, 1 custodian and 1 cook. There is capacity for 95 students.

TUPPER YOUNG PARENTS' PROGRAM

Address: 599 East 23rd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5V 1X8
Telephone: 604-713-5839 Fax: 604-713-8232
Administering School: Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School

Program Description:

Tupper Young Parents Alternative Program is a collaborative program involving the Vancouver Board of Education and the Y.W.C.A. The core focus of the program is to facilitate student building life-long skills and confidence that will allow them to meet the academic and personal challenges of parenting, not just while in the Young Parent Program, but in the challenging years beyond the program. The program offers the following services to young parents and expectant parents:

- Individualized, self paced programs depending on student needs and goals;
- Students take regular, adapted or modified Grade 11 and 12 courses;
- Support and advocacy of a full-time Youth and Family Worker;
- Licensed on-site child care at Y.W.C.A. Emma's Early Learning and Care Centre;
- Opportunities for fitness activities at the Y.W.C.A.;
- Food Safe Certification and Foods 11 and 12;
- Parenting and child development credit course;
- Healthy nutrition and lifestyle credit course, which includes healthy snacks and meals daily;
- Bus pass assistance, if needed.

Student Profile:

Tupper Young Parents serves 20 pregnant and parenting teens (12 – 19 years of age) who wish to complete their education in a safe, nurturing, individualized environment while also providing a safe, nurturing environment for their children.

Academic Goal:

The goal is for students to successfully complete their Grade 11 and 12 course work leading to High School Graduation, Adult Graduation or a School Leaving Certificate. Student progress is managed through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/caregiver and program staff. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational programming, the program assists young mothers to achieve self-reliance and independence by combining academic work, counseling, career choices, health and parenting sessions, support groups, and recreational opportunities.

Referral Process:

Referrals are made directly to the Tupper Young Parents Program. Referrals are accepted for students 12 to 19 years of age from Counsellors, Administrators, Social Workers, Youth and Family Workers and student self referrals. Intakes typically occur in September, November, January, March and June, however intake is continuous as space becomes available.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Tupper Young Parents enrolls 20 students and has 2 Teachers, 1 Youth and Family Worker and tutors.

INTER-AGENCY PROGRAMS

The Inter-agency programs are jointly funded by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). These programs are for students whose needs cannot be met within the setting of the neighbourhood secondary school or District Alternative Resource Programs. These programs are designed for students who demonstrate behavioral difficulties and “at risk” behaviours which may affect their learning, interpersonal relationships and /or personal adjustment over a prolonged period of time. These students meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the “H” category (Students Requiring Intensive Behaviour Intervention or students with Serious Mental Health concerns).

Referrals from MCFD or an Aboriginal delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSF screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Hamber House is a partnership between the Vancouver Board of Education and Vancouver Community Child and Youth Health Services. Potential students are referred to Hamber House through their psychiatrist or mental health team.

The West Coast Alternative Program is a partnership with the Vancouver Board of Education, Pacific Community Resources and Vancouver Coastal Health. Referrals to the West Coast Alternative Program are submitted to the District Principal of Alternative Programs.

ARIES PROGRAM

Address: #1 – 1607 East Hastings, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 1S7
Telephone: 604-255-1326
Fax: 604-255-0743
Administering School: Britannia Secondary School

Program Description:

Aries is a program where Aboriginal youth aged 13 - 16 are provided a safe, non-threatening environment in which to learn, grow and enjoy life, regardless of behavioural problems, legal situations, family, or personal backgrounds. Aries provides a flexible learning environment which includes self-paced components in order to meet the student's unique learning needs. Grade 8 - 10 core academic subjects are offered. Electives include: life skills, cultural enrichment, video projects, Health and Career Education 8 and 9, Planning 10, Physical Education, arts/crafts, educational outings, wood work, and cooking.

Student Profile:

Aboriginal youth ages 13 - 16 years old in the care of MCFD and/or Aboriginal delegated agency and youth that have ongoing MCFD and /or Aboriginal delegated agency involvement. These youth present social, emotional, behavioural and/or cognitive difficulties, and have been unsuccessful in a regular secondary school or other alternative program. They also require a team approach which includes but is not limited to school staff, Social Worker, Probation Officer, parent/caregiver, mental health worker and/or one-to-one worker to help them to be successful. Students referred to this program meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the "H" category.

Academic Goal:

Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/caregiver and program staff. Aries students can complete grades 8, 9 and 10. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social, emotional and mental health needs. Transition Plans will be developed to provide transition to a senior alternative program, a vocational program or employment.

Referral Process:

Referrals from MCFD or Aboriginal delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Aries enrolls 20 students and has 1 VSB Teacher, 2 Youth Workers, 1 Program Coordinator, and 1 Cook employed by Urban Native Youth Association.

CEDAR WALK PROGRAM

Address: 331 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1W5
Telephone: 604-708-9130
Fax: 604-708-9160
Administering School: Britannia Secondary School

Program Description:

Cedar Walk provides a respectful, safe, and culturally relevant environment to address the needs of Aboriginal students who have an extended history of non-engagement in school. A vocational focus helps students learn pre-employment skills and provides work experience opportunities. Cedar Walk provides social, emotional, mental health, physical and spiritual support to students through sports and recreation, arts and crafts, aboriginal cultural enrichment, field trips, A&D support, life skills and health information.

Student Profile:

Aboriginal youth ages 15 - 18 years old in the care of MCFD and/or Aboriginal delegated agency and youth that have ongoing MCFD and/or Aboriginal delegated agency involvement. These youth present social, emotional, behavioural and/or cognitive difficulties, and have been unsuccessful in a regular secondary school or other alternative program. They also require a team approach which includes but is not limited to school staff, Social Worker, Probation Officer, parent/caregiver, mental health worker and/or one-to-one worker to help them to be successful. Students referred to this program meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the "H" category.

Academic Goal:

Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/caregiver and program staff. Cedar Walk students can complete grades 8, 9 and 10. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. Academic upgrading and job readiness skills are an integral aspect of the Cedar Walk Program. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social, emotional and mental health needs. Transition Plans will be developed to provide transition to a senior alternative program, a vocational program, or employment.

Referral Process:

Referrals from MCFD or Aboriginal delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Cedar Walk enrolls 20 students and has 1 VSB Teacher, 2 Youth Workers, and 1 Program Coordinator employed by Urban Native Youth Association.

EAGLE HIGH PROGRAM

Address: #201- 2830 Grandview Hwy., Vancouver, B.C. V5M 2C9
Telephone: 604-412-7953
Fax: 604-412-7951
Administering School: Windermere Secondary School

Program Description:

Eagle High integrates an academic program with individual and group counseling and recreational activities. The students receive academic testing and individualized and group teaching. The academic program involves adapted/modified courses and remedial work based on the student's skill levels. Goal meetings and peer group work help promote the students' clarification of values, enhance their decision-making skills, and help students be positively assertive. Recreation, camping, art, the Breakfast Club and the lunch program encourage attendance and participation, thereby developing the students' feelings of self-worth and belonging.

Student Profile:

Students are aged 13 to 16 years old and are working on Grades 8 to 10. Eagle High works for students who have had a number of school failures and require a more supportive environment with a higher staff to student ratio. Students require a team approach which includes but is not limited to school staff, Social Worker, Probation Officer, parent/guardian, mental health worker and /or one-to-one worker to help them be successful. Students referred to this program meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the "H" category.

Academic Goal:

Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/caregiver and program staff. Eagle High students can complete grades 8 to 10. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social, emotional and mental health needs. Transition Plans will be developed to provide transition to a senior alternative program, a vocational program, or employment.

Referral Process:

Referrals from MCFD or Aboriginal delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Eagle High enrolls 30 students and has 3 VSB Teachers, 1 Program Supervisor, and 2 Child and Youth Care Counsellors employed by Pacific Community Resources.

HAMBER HOUSE ADOLESCENT DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM

Address: 233 West 15th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1Y1
Telephone: 604-876-9276
Fax: 604-873-4012
Administering School: Eric Hamber Secondary School

Program Description:

Hamber House is a day treatment program which provides services to youth, 13-18 years of age and who have serious mental health concerns and are unable to attend their neighbourhood school. Hamber House is an inter-ministerial program which provides a full range of mental health services, as well as educational programming. The program is a partnership between the Vancouver Board of Education and Vancouver Community Child and Youth Mental Health Services. The Hamber House program provides services based on the individual needs of each student. Consequently, some students stay for a short time; others for longer. The average stay is 1 year. A primary goal of the program is to assist each student in attaining a more adaptive level of functioning which will enable them to return to their neighbourhood school, other community programs or employment.

Student Profile:

Hamber House is designed primarily for students who are experiencing severe mental health difficulties such as psychotic, mood or anxiety disorders, or other severe mental health difficulties which negatively impact on a youth's ability to function academically, socially, and emotionally. Youth who have behaviour or substance use issues are not eligible to attend the Hamber House program. Students referred to this program must meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the "H" category (Students Requiring Intensive Behaviour Intervention or Students with Serious Mental Health concerns).

Academic Goal:

Students can complete courses at the grade 8 to 12 level in the core academic areas. Student progress is managed through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Adaptations and Modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to providing educational and recreational programming, students participate in individual and group counseling where they learn to manage their mental health concerns, practice social skills, and prepare for further education or employment.

Referral Process:

Intake is continuous as space becomes available. Potential students are referred to Hamber House through their psychiatrist or mental health team. The Vancouver Board of Education has assigned the District Principal of Alternative Programs to act as liaison to this program. The adolescents and their parents are then invited to a meeting with Hamber House Staff to determine if the student is eligible. All successful applicants will then be placed on a wait list.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Hamber House enrolls 12 students and has 1 Teacher, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 School and Student Support Worker.

Child and Youth Mental Health staff consists of a Program Coordinator, Program Assistant, Child and Family Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Psychologist, Psychiatrist and Peer Support Worker.

GENESIS NORTH EAST

Address: #108 – 2780 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5M 1X7
Telephone: 604-660-3473 Fax: 604-660-3330
Administering School: Vancouver Technical Secondary School

GENESIS BROADWAY

Address: 329 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1W5
Telephone: 604-872-7530 Fax: 604-872-7532
Administering School: Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School

GENESIS SOUTH

Address: #105 – 5550 Fraser Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5W 2Z4
Telephone: 604-660-8175 Fax: 604-660-8400
Administering School: John Oliver Secondary School

Program Description:

The Genesis programs address the needs of students who have an extended history of non-engagement in school. The three Genesis programs are designed to meet the academic, vocational, personal and social needs of each student.

Student Profile:

Students are ages 15 to 18 years old and are working on Grades 8 to 10 (Genesis South operates a Grade 11 Program in Social Studies and English). The Genesis programs work for students who have had a number of school failures and require a more supportive environment. They also employ a team approach which includes but is not limited to school staff, Social Worker, Probation Officer, parent/guardian, mental health worker and/or one-to-one worker to help students be successful. Students referred to this program meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the “H” category.

Academic Goal:

Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. Genesis students can complete grades 8 to 10. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to the academic component, students may be engaged in work experience, recreation, social and life skills activities. Transition Plans will be developed to provide transition to a senior alternative program, a vocational program, a college program or employment.

Referral Process:

Referrals from MCFD or Aboriginal delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Each Genesis program enrolls 20 students and has 1 VSB Teacher and 1 Youth Worker employed by PLEA Community Services Society of BC.

PINNACLE PROGRAM

Address: 3rd floor - 550 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2N7
Telephone: 604-713-5896
Fax: 604-713-5996
Administering School: Templeton Secondary School

Program Description:

The Pinnacle program is a senior program, based on a semester system, located in a MCFD Integrated Youth Services building with access to Probation Officers, Social Workers, Drug and Alcohol Counsellors and Mental Health Workers. In addition to providing educational programming, the program staff is dedicated to working individually with students to focus on their social and emotional needs.

Student Profile:

Students are ages 16 to 18 years old and are working on grades 11 and/or 12. Students referred to this program must meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the “H” category (Students Requiring Intensive Behaviour Intervention or Students with Serious Mental Health concerns). These students will have regular contact with a Probation Officer, Social Worker and/or Mental Health Worker.

Academic Goal:

The goal is for students to successfully complete grade 11 and 12 academic course work leading to a B.C. Secondary School Graduation Certificate (Dogwood). Student progress is managed through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Adaptations are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. In addition to the academic component, students may be engaged in work experience, recreation, social and life skills activities. Transition Plans will be developed to provide transition to a vocational program, a college program or employment.

Referral Process:

Referrals from MCFD or Aboriginal delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

Pinnacle enrolls a maximum of 20 students and has 1 VSB Teacher and 1 Youth and Family Workers.

South Vancouver Learning Centre Program (formerly known as the EPIC Program)

Address: 4920 Fraser Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5W 2Y8
Telephone: 604-325-2004 ext. 143
Fax: 604-325-2012
Administering School: John Oliver Secondary School

Program Description:

The South Vancouver Learning Centre Program addresses the needs of students who have an extended history of non-engagement in school. Youth who attend the EPIC Program have two options for service dependent on their needs. The services include the following:

- Full Day component – youth can attend full time programming designed to assist the youth who would benefit from extra support in a small group setting to obtain academic credits;
- Afternoon component (3:30 – 6:30) – youth attend in the afternoon for a variety of reasons (i.e. work during the day, unable to make it to a morning class, etc.) and would benefit from extra support in a small group setting to obtain academic credits.

Student Profile:

Students are aged 13 to 18 years old and are working on Grades 8 to 10. The South Vancouver Learning Centre Program employs a team approach which includes but is not limited to school staff, Social Worker, Probation Officer, parent/guardian, mental health worker and/or one-to-one worker to help students be successful. Students referred to this program meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the “H” category.

Academic Goal:

Student progress is managed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process which involves the student, the parent/guardian and program staff. South Vancouver Learning Centre Program students can complete grades 8 to 10. Adaptations and modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. Direct instruction is provided to address students’ literacy and numeracy skills deficiencies. In addition to the academic component, students may be engaged in work experience, recreation, social and life skills activities. Transition Plans will be developed to provide transition to a senior alternative program, to a vocational program or employment.

Referral Process:

Referrals from MCFD or Aboriginal delegated agency Social Worker or Probation Officer are emailed to the MCFD Youth Services Community Liaison. Referrals are accepted on an on-going basis and reviewed by a MCFD/VSB screening committee to determine eligibility, placement and priority.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

The South Vancouver Learning Centre Program enrolls 30 students and has 2.5 VSB Teachers, 1 Program Manager and 5 Youth Workers employed by South Hill Resources.

WEST COAST ALTERNATE PROGRAM

Address: #201-2830 Grandview Hwy., Vancouver, B.C. V5M 2C9
Telephone: 604-412-7950
Fax: 604-412-7951
Administering School: Templeton Secondary School

Program Description:

The West Coast Alternate provides services to youth, 13-18 years of age who have a diagnosis within the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and an IQ over 70, who are experiencing difficulty in the regular classroom/school environment. Although students living with F.A.S.D. present with a variety of strengths and needs, there are distinct strategies and practices that appear to be effective in providing an optimal learning environment. The program is a partnership with the Vancouver Board of Education, Pacific Community Resources and Vancouver Coastal Health. The program focuses on academic and social/behavioural aspects as well as providing community and pre-employment opportunities.

Student Profile:

West Coast Alternate is designed for students who have fetal alcohol exposure related disorders which negatively impact on their ability to function academically, socially, and emotionally and require intervention beyond the school's resources. Students referred to this program must meet the Ministry of Education criteria for designation in the "D" category (Chronic Health).

Academic Goal:

Students can complete courses at the grade 8 to 12 level in the core academic areas. The West Coast Alternate classroom uses work placements as the focal point for curriculum development. Student progress is managed through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Adaptations and Modifications are made where necessary to meet the needs of the students. A primary goal of the program is to assist each student in attaining a more adaptive level of functioning which will enable them to transition to other community programs and/or employment.

Referral Process:

Referrals to the West Coast Alternative Program must be submitted to the District Principal, Alternative Programs at the VSB Education Centre with supporting documentation. The student must have a FASD or related diagnosis or may be on the wait list for assessment. The West Coast Screening Committee will review all referrals. Intake is continuous as space becomes available. All successful applicants will be placed on a wait list.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

West Coast Alternative enrolls 22 students and has 2 Teachers, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 Pre-Employment Transition Worker.

Pacific Community Resources staff consists of 1 Program Coordinator, 1 Youth and Family Worker and 1 part-time cook.

Graduation Program Adult Education

Eligibility

To be eligible to graduate in the Adult Graduation Program, adult students (19 years of age or over) must earn at least 20 credits in the secondary system or complete five courses in the post-secondary system. Courses and credits can be counted from the British Columbia School System and/or the College ABE Program.

British Columbia School System Qualifying Courses		College ABE Program Qualifying Courses
a Language Arts 12* course	4 credit course or	a Provincial Level English or higher course
	AND	
a Mathematics 11 or 12* course	4 credit course or	an advanced or provincial Level or higher Mathematics course
	AND EITHER	
Option 1 Three Grade 12 Ministry-authorized courses (4 credits each)	12 credits or	three additional courses at the provincial level or higher
	OR	
Option 2 Social Studies 11 (4 credits) or First Nations Studies 12 and two Grade 12 Ministry-authorized courses (4 credits each)	12 credit or	Advanced Social Sciences and two provincial level courses or higher
Total: 20 credits		Total: 5 courses

Changes to mathematics requirements (effective September 2002) for the Credit-Based Graduation Program do not affect the Adult Graduation Program. Therefore, Accounting 11 and 12, and Financial Accounting 12 continue to satisfy the mathematics requirement on the Adult Graduation Program since September 2002.

To be eligible for the Adult Graduation Diploma, a person must be 19 years or older. **(A student who is eighteen and has been out of school for at least a year may be admitted to an Adult Program with approval from the enrolling institution Principal).** If a student meets graduation requirements before turning 19 years of age, the school is required to confirm that the school administrator gave the student permission to start the Adult Program early.

ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES

The Vancouver Board of Education currently operates six Adult Education Centres open to youth 16 years of age and older. Students must be 16 years of age as of July 1st of the current school year. These Centres provide educational opportunities ranging from beginning literacy to secondary school completion.

The emphasis of the Adult Education Centres is on providing flexible and accessible programs. Students can enroll on an ongoing basis and programs are designed and adjusted to meet individual learning needs. Students whose educational background requires Special Education assistance are not suitable for the programs as support services available throughout the K-12 system are not available in Adult Education. To register, all potential students are required to meet with the instructor or a designated Youth Program Advisor. A referral from a counsellor or administrator and completion of an English and Math assessment are required for acceptance.

EDUCATION CENTRES - (COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS)

The Vancouver Board of Education currently operates six Adult Education Centres in Vancouver. These centres provide educational opportunities to youth and adult students whose studies range from beginning literacy to secondary school completion. All grade 10, 11 and 12 courses follow prescribed Ministry of Education curriculums.

The emphasis is on providing flexible and accessible programs:

- a flexible schedule: day time, evening and weekend courses and year-round course offerings
- a variety of study options: students may choose self-paced, quarter and semester courses, computer based curriculum, and support for distance education courses
- courses are offered at skill levels (rather than grouped by age).

The Centres are:

- Downtown East: 101/105 Powell Street, Tel: 604-713-5760
- Gathering Place: 609 Helmcken Street, Tel: 604-257-3849
- Hastings: 1661 Napier Street, Tel: 604-713-5735
- Main Street: 333 Terminal Ave., 4th Fl., Tel: 604-713-5731
- Roberts: 1666 Comox Street, Tel: 604-713-5752
- South Hill: 6010 Fraser St., Tel: 604-713-5770

Five specialized programs for youth are offered at:

- South Hill Youth Program
- Kiwassa - through Downtown East Education Centre
- Fresh Start - through Hastings Education Centre
- Fresh Start Senior- through Hastings Education Centre
- RAIL - through Roberts Education Centre
- Collingwood - through Downtown East Education Centre

We focus on the four subjects essential in any academic program: Science, Social Studies, English and Math.

Students can begin at any time. These Youth Programs adjust to meet the individual's learning needs. They provide encouragement and support to enhance the student's confidence in their own abilities. Fresh Start, Fresh Start Senior, Collingwood, Kiwassa and RAIL Programs are offered by Adult Education and are designed to provide a flexible alternative for youth.

These programs are appropriate for youth who:

- would benefit from extra help in a supportive, encouraging environment;
- are motivated in making a change in their lives; and
- want to change their history of poor attendance

Students can enrol on an ongoing basis and programs are designed and adjusted to meet individual learning needs. The youth programs provide encouragement and support to enhance the student's confidence in their own abilities.

To register, all potential students are required to meet with the instructor or a designated Youth Program Advisor. A referral from a counsellor or administrator and completion of an English and Math assessment are required for acceptance. Students must be 16 years of age as of July 1st of the current school year. Students whose educational background requires specialized assistance are not suitable for the program as support services available throughout the K-12 system are not available in Adult Education.

COLLINGWOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Address: 5288 Joyce Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5R 6C9
Telephone: 604-435-0323
Fax: 604-451-1191
Administering School: Downtown East Education Centre

Program Description:

Collingwood Education Program operates from 8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday out of the Collingwood Neighbourhood House located at Joyce Road and Euclid Street (Joyce Skytrain Station). The curriculum offered is self-paced and focuses on the core subject areas of Science, Math, Social Studies and English on a semester system. Students work at their own pace to complete grade 10 to 12 courses.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, students may elect to participate in a Physical Education class in the gym or stay in the class for Studio Arts work.

Student Profile:

Collingwood Education Program is primarily for students of ages 16 – 19 (students over 19 may be considered for entrance into the program on an individual basis) who:

- have not been successful in regular secondary school, and
- are 16 years old as of July 1st of the current school year.

Students whose educational background requires specialized assistance are not suitable for the program as support services available through the K-12 system are not available to adult education programs.

Academic Goal:

Our goal is to provide students with individualized, self-paced learning in a structured environment with the educational support of an instructor. Students work towards high school graduation either on the regular Dogwood or Adult Dogwood diplomas.

Application Process:

The major intakes for this program occur in September and in February. Students first make an appointment to meet with the instructor of the program. When students meet with the instructor, they should bring all report cards / transcripts, photo ID and citizenship information. If students have been out of school for a while, then they are usually required to take a Math and English assessment to determine academic placement.

When space is available, students may be admitted on an ongoing basis.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

The Collingwood Education Program has the capacity for 30 students. It is staffed by one certified teacher, one teaching assistant, one academic advisor and one outreach worker.

FRESH START JUNIOR

Address: Britannia Teen Centre
1661 Napier Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 4X4
Telephone: 778-228-1708
Fax: 604-713-5737
Administering School: Hastings Education Centre

Program Description:

Fresh Start Junior is a closely-tracked program where students 16 – 18 years of age work in the core subject areas (Math, English, Social Studies and Science) to grade 10 completion. The program fosters an atmosphere which stresses cooperation, respect and accomplishment for all students. Referrals to other community and counselling services are available according to individual need.

Student Profile:

The Fresh Start Junior Program is for youth aged 16-18 who:

- were not successful in a regular or alternative school due to attendance, lifestyle or family issues;
- are working at a Grade 10 level;
- are 16 years of age as of July 1st of the current school year.

Students whose educational background requires specialized assistance are not suitable for the program, as support services available through the K-12 system are not available to adult education programs.

Academic Goal:

Completion of Grade 10 core courses

Application Process:

To register, all potential students are required to phone and make an appointment with the academic advisor. This advisor will work with the student to develop a graduation plan. Students are asked to bring all high school records (within the last 3 years), citizenship information, and photo ID to the appointment. If official school records from a Canadian high school are not available, students may be required to provide an English translation of offshore educational documentation and to write a skills assessment to determine academic placement.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

There is a combined maximum of 36 students in the Fresh Start Junior and Senior Programs. The two teachers in the Fresh Start Junior and Fresh Start Senior Programs work with both groups of students within the subject areas of English/Humanities and Math/Science. Students in both programs are further supported by two instructional assistants, as well as by the academic advisor and the outreach worker.

FRESH START SENIOR

Address: Portable on the field of Britannia Secondary
1661 Napier Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 4X4
Telephone: 778-228-1708
Fax: 604-713-5737
Administering School: Hastings Education Centre

Program Description:

Fresh Start Senior is for youth 16 – 19 years of age working towards grade 12 completion. It provides a transition for students who have completed Grade 10 in a regular or an alternative program (including Fresh Start Junior). Students work on an individualized program of structured classes. The goal is to provide a positive atmosphere for learning with a focus on student's individual needs. Referrals to other community and counselling services are available according to individual need.

Student Profile:

The Fresh Start Senior Program is for youth aged 16-19 who:

- are working at a grade 11 or 12 level
- are 16 years of age as of July 1st of the current school year.

Students whose educational background requires specialized assistance are not suitable for the program, as support services available through the K-12 system are not available to adult education programs.

Academic Goal:

Completion of Grade 12

Application Process:

To register, all potential students are required to phone and make an appointment with the academic advisor for the Youth Program. This advisor will work with the student to develop a graduation plan. Students are asked to bring all high school records (within the last 3 years), citizenship information, and photo ID to the appointment. If official school records from a Canadian high school are not available, students may be required to provide an English translation of offshore educational documentation and to write a skills assessment to determine academic placement. Referrals from high school counsellors, adult education centres, and social workers are welcome.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

There is a combined maximum of 36 students in the Fresh Start Junior and Senior Programs. The two teachers in the Fresh Start Junior and Fresh Start Senior Programs work with both groups of students within the subject areas of English/Humanities and Math/Science. Students in both programs are further supported by two instructional assistants, as well as by the academic advisor and the outreach worker.

KIWASSA EDUCATION PROGRAM

Address: Kiwassa Neighbourhood House
2425 Oxford Street (at Nanaimo), Vancouver, B.C. V5K 1M7
Telephone: 604-254-5401 local 231
Fax: 604-254-7673
Administering School: Downtown East Education Centre

Program Description:

Kiwassa Education Program operates from 8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday from Kiwassa Neighbourhood House. The program is intended for at-risk students who have not succeeded in the regular system due to attendance, work, lifestyle or family issues. The program offers a variety of individualized, self-paced courses on a semester basis. Students work at their own pace in a supportive environment to complete Grade 11 and 12 academic and elective courses.

Student Profile:

Kiwassa Education Program is primarily for students of ages 17 – 20 (students over 20 may be considered for entrance into the program on an individual basis) who:

- have not been successful in regular secondary school, and
- are mature and serious about their education but require a supportive, flexible program.

Students whose educational background requires specialized assistance are not suitable for the program as support services available through the K-12 system are not available to adult education programs.

Academic Goal:

Our goal is to provide students with individualized, self-paced learning in a structured environment with flexible educational support. Students work towards high school graduation either on the regular Dogwood or Adult Dogwood diplomas.

Application Process:

The major intakes for this program occur in September and in February. Students make an appointment to meet with the instructor of the program. When students meet with the instructor, they should bring all report cards / transcripts, photo ID and citizenship information. If students have been out of school for a while, then they are usually required to take a Math and English assessment to determine academic placement.

In some cases when space is available, students may be admitted on an ongoing basis.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

The Kiwassa Education Program has the capacity for 45 students. It is staffed by one full-time certified teacher, one part-time certified teacher, one academic advisor and one outreach worker.

ROBERTS ALTERNATIVE INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING PROGRAM (RAIL)

Address: 1666 Comox Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6G 3C3
Telephone: 604-713-5752
Fax: 604-713-5754
Administering School: Roberts Education Centre

Program Description:

The Roberts Teen Program offers an opportunity for youth between the ages of 16-18 years to complete grade 10 to 12 courses in an individualized format on a semester basis. In their first semester, students will work solely on individualized self-paced courses. In their second semester students may add one or more classroom structured courses in place of individualized courses. RAIL operates Mon. to Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Student Profile:

The RAIL Program is for students between 16 – 18 years old who:

- have not been successful in regular secondary school
- are 16 years old as of July of the current year.

Academic Goal:

Our goal is to provide students with individualized, self-paced learning in a structured environment with the educational support of a teacher. Completion of Grade 10 to 12 courses and upgrading courses are available.

Application Process:

Students complete an application form and make an appointment to meet with an academic advisor. When students meet the academic advisor, they should bring all report cards/transcripts, pictured I.D. and citizenship information. If students have been out of school for a while, then they are required to take a Math and English assessment to determine the students Academic Level. The format is semestered with intakes in September and February.

In some cases when space is available, students can be admitted on an ongoing basis.

Program Capacity and Staffing:

One VSB Teacher, 1 Teacher Assistant, 1 Academics Advisory, 1 Outreach Support Worker and 25 students.

SOUTH HILL YOUTH PROGRAM

Address: 6010 Fraser St., Vancouver, B.C. V5W 2Z7
Telephone: 604-713-5770
Fax: 604-713-5769
Administering School: South Hill Education Centre

Program Description:

This program provides students who have left secondary school with opportunities for individualized, self-paced learning in a monitored yet flexible program. There is a strong emphasis on personal responsibility, respect and a shared “social contract” of beliefs and agreements. The program operates on a 9-week quarter system from mid-September to January, and from February to June. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Student Profile:

The South Hill Youth Program is for youth aged 16-18 who:

- were not successful in a regular or alternative school due to attendance, lifestyle or family issues;
- are working at or above a Grade 10 level;
- are 16 years of age as of July 1st of the current school year.

Students whose educational background requires specialized assistance are not suitable for the program, as support services available through the K-12 system are not available to adult education programs.

Academic Goal:

Students work towards high school graduation. Courses include core Grade 10-12 subjects and a variety of (available) electives. Students are registered in three courses at any one time, with an emphasis on one completion per quarter.

Application Process:

To register, all potential students are required to phone and make an appointment with the academic advisor for the Youth Program. This advisor will work with the student to develop a graduation plan. Students are asked to bring all high school records (within the last 3 years), citizenship information, and photo ID to the appointment. If official school records from a Canadian high school are not available, students may be required to provide an English translation of offshore educational documentation and write a skills assessment to determine academic placement.

After the advisor meeting and a learning skills reference check from previous schools (or, in the case of offshore applicants, the skills assessment), students may be admitted every quarter based upon available space,

Program Capacity and Staffing:

- Capacity = 40 students (20 per block)
- Staffing:
 - one VSB teacher
 - one teacher assistant
 - one (part-time) academic advisor
 - outreach support when required
- Program is managed by the South Hill Education Centre Vice-Principal (604-713-8299)