

# Accessibility Committee Update May 2024

The Accessible British Columbia Regulation, under the Accessible British Columbia Act, came into force on September 1, 2022. At this time, the NLPS Accessibility Committee was formed, and the initial plan developed by that committee was implemented on September 1, 2023. The plan is based on the Accessibility Principles of Adaptability, Collaboration, Diversity, Inclusion, Self-Determination, and Universal Design, as set out in the Accessible B.C. Act. Below is a summary of the work completed towards this plan in the 2023-2024 school year.



## Priority #1: Employment and Service Delivery Practices

The Accessibility Committee engaged with individuals with lived experience related to accessibility needs, to support their understanding of the measures being explored. Topics included: mental health supports in the district, improvements to communication mechanisms on the district website, student presentations related to physical accessibility as well as for students with hearing and vision needs.

During the 2024-25 school year, The Department of Learning Services will engage in dialogue with specialist staff and school leaders to explore potential gaps in accessibility as related to staffing levels.



## Priority #2: The Built Environment

The Accessibility Committee created a set of Universal Accessibility Expectations for the built environment. Each school completed a Universal Accessibility Built Environment Analysis. In 2024-2025, the data will be used to create a workplan for addressing gaps in accessibility as related to these expectations. This will include an exploration of guidelines for playground structures and groundcover at our elementary school sites.



## Priority #3: Inclusion, Mental Health and Peer Connections

A draft Classroom Accessibility Matrix has been developed, which outlines universal accessibility measures which can be implemented in a variety of school settings (e.g. classrooms, gym, outdoor spaces), to support equitable access for students with a variety of diverse abilities and disabilities. During the 2024-2025 school year, this tool will be shared with staff through capacity building sessions. It will be a blending of the work being done with respect to Accessibility, as well as the broader work being done as related to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) as part of the district's Strategic Plan.



## Priority #4: Information and Communication

A tab was added to the district website which allows for the public and employees to report accessibility concerns. The website also has text-to-speech and translation functions turned on. The district is presently gathering information related to the various formats and language styles that are most universally accessible. These will be used to assist employees with communicating more accessibly, using plain language and a variety of formats.

