



**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: January 14, 2026
TO: Strategic Directions Committee
FROM: Brett Hancock, Director of Priority Populations
SUBJECT: Academies Update

Background

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools offers four Athletic Academies (Beach Volleyball, Hockey, Soccer and Lacrosse) a Jazz Academy, and a Performing Arts Academy. All Athletic Academies are located at Nanaimo District Secondary School (NDSS). The Jazz Academy is at Wellington Secondary School and the Performing Arts Academy is at Dover Bay Secondary School. Each academy supports grades 8-12 and fees range from \$600-\$1600, but these fees do not cover the costs of tournaments, travel, and festivals. There is no application fee for the Jazz and Performing Arts Academy.

The Beach Volleyball, Hockey, and Soccer Academies were originally established at Woodlands Secondary by a team of dedicated Physical and Health Education teachers. These academies were designed to provide enriched learning experiences for students passionate about specific sports, supporting both high-performance athletes and those developing foundational skills, while earning their Physical Health Education credits.

Following the closure of Woodlands Secondary, Beach Volleyball, Hockey and Soccer academies transitioned to NDSS, where the Lacrosse Academy had always been located. Together, these programs continue to offer students opportunities to pursue athletic excellence within a structured educational environment.

Discussion

Beach Volleyball Academy

Timeline: Both classes are in second semester, and classes are divided into introduction and advanced skill levels.

Selection Process: Lotto System Current Enrollment: 60 (waitlist) Fees: \$900 +Travel

Hockey Academy

Timeline: Runs in both first and second semester.

Selection Process: Lotto System Current Enrollment: 51 (waitlist) Fees: \$900

Soccer Academy

Timeline: Both classes run together in first semester.

Selection Process: Lotto System Current Enrollment: 60 (waitlist) Fees: \$600

Lacrosse Academy

Timeline: This is a full-year program for both junior and senior students.

Selection Process: Evaluations** Current Enrollment: 49 Fees: \$1400-\$1600 +Travel

Jazz Academy

Timeline: This is a full-year program for both junior and senior students.

Selection Process: Evaluations** Current Enrollment: 151 Fees: Travel

Performing Arts Academy

Timeline: This is a full-year program for both junior and senior students.

Selection Process: Evaluations** Current Enrollment: 114 Fees: None

** has never had a waitlist

Next Steps

This is the first phase of the review. District staff will be working with each of the school admin teams and academy teaching staff to provide a more detailed review and potential recommendations in December 2026. Part of this next phase will look at how academies support our priority populations.

Summary

The representation of our priority populations in the academies is lower than compared to the overall school numbers. In secondary schools within NLPS 20% of the students identify as having Indigenous ancestry. Over the past three years, the breakdown of Indigenous students in academies is: Performing Arts 14%, Jazz Academy 12%, Volleyball 10%, Soccer 5%, and Hockey 4%. Lacrosse is above the district average with 22%. There are currently no youth in care in any of the academies.

