

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: November 24, 2021
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Scott Saywell, Superintendent
SUBJECT: Ministry Performance Data - Completion Rates

Background

This memo is intended to provide context for the attached graduation rates that the District has recently received from the Ministry of Education.

Discussion

A key milestone in life is graduating from High School. It represents the culmination of 13 years of hard work and the transformation from childhood to adulthood. It is a rite of passage.

Like every other school district in British Columbia, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools endeavours to increase the number of students who graduate each year (often called the completion rate) thereby increasing our students life chances.

For the 2020-21 school year, the District has continued to see its graduation trend upward. In fact, the 6-year completion rate is at an all time high. Our entire system should be proud of the work they did in supporting these students to completion.

From a COVID perspective, we note the compassionate approach from staff with increased outreach intended to connect students to schools had a positive impact. Despite the increased challenges of COVID, staff maintained connections with students which resulted in an increase in graduation rates. Finally, we note that the 6-year graduation rate for our Indigenous students spiked. We are currently examining the reasons for this result, but needless to say, we are very hopeful to maintain this level in future.

Requirements to Graduate

While most students will complete high school within the expected five-year period, a number of students will take longer to complete (eg, students who take a year off to play sports or study abroad; or those who require an additional year to successfully finish one or two required courses).

The six-year completion rate is the percent of students who graduated with a Certificate of Graduation or Adult Graduation Diploma within six years from the first time they enrol in Grade 8 and is the standard measure for school district success. Although some students take 7 or 8 years to graduate the impact on the overall completion rate is minimal.

The completion rates provided by the BC ministry of Education include:

Six-Year Completion Rate - The proportion of students who graduate, with a B.C. Certificate of Graduation or B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma, within six years from the first time they enroll in Grade 8, adjusted for migration in and out of B.C. The data is only available at district and province level.

Eligible Grade 12 Graduation Rate - The proportion of eligible-to-graduate Grade 12 students who graduated in that school year. Students are eligible to graduate if they have enrolled in sufficient courses to meet the requirements to graduate during that school year.

First-Time Grade 12 Graduation Rate - Number of students recorded as being in Grade 12 for the first time in September who then graduate in that same school year.

The Ministry of Education also provides completion rates for Indigenous students, English Language Learners (ELL) and students with special needs.

Note: In order to meet graduation requirements and be awarded a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma), students must earn a minimum of 80 credits and write provincial assessments of numeracy and literacy. The 80 credits include 52 credits for required courses (including 8 credits of Career Education courses) and a minimum of 28 elective credits.

To graduate with an Adult Dogwood, students must have:

- A required Language Arts 12 course
- A Math 11 or 12 course
- At least three additional Grade 12 electives, or a Grade 11 Socials Studies course and two additional Grade 12 electives

Appendix A: Six Year Completion and Grade 12 Graduation Rates 2020/2021