



## NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

#### INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: January 5, 2022  
TO: Education Committee  
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent & Justin Mark, District Principal  
SUBJECT: Island ConnectEd K-12

---

#### **2021/22 Program overview and services**

Island ConnectEd is a K-12 Online Learning school. Currently we have over 500 full time students enrolled. Our school caters to several groups of students. We run full time K-9 programming either fully online, or supplemented with some in-person lessons, clubs and social development activities. We have full time grade 10-12 students, as well as dual enrolled and cross enrolled students taking one or more courses towards graduation. At this time we serve over 800 dual enrolled students. We also have some adult learners working towards graduation and some who are upgrading for post-secondary admission. Our secondary component is a year-round school, offering full courses that can start at any time during the year. We encourage students to complete all courses by the end of June each year, however students may apply to continue past the end of the school year.

Some important components of our District and our Online Learning School:

- Year round for grades 10-12
- With the support of the school district we have pivoted towards a new Learning Management System (Canvas) with the goal of providing an easier and more differentiated interface for our K-12 students, families and staff.
- We have completely redesigned our K-9 curriculum to better integrate district and provincial instruction and assessment practices.
- We are in the process of rebuilding all of our 10-12 online courses in Canvas, including new offerings and in some cases full redesigns.
- Our district has been walking together with local First Nations partners, taking significant steps toward Truth and Reconciliation, and honouring Aboriginal Ways of Knowing on our course development and district services

- Our school staff includes inclusion support teachers; educational assistants; First Nations Cultural Support workers; Child, Youth and Family Support Worker, Coordinator, and Counsellors to support student learning
- We use a third-party communication tool to ensure that students and parents receive timely feedback, communication of student learning, and early warnings of lack of progress
- Our district is currently in the process of developing through a collaborative district team combined English First People's courses with Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12 and BC First Peoples 12 that we were anticipating adapting these courses for our online school. This would allow students to meet all the curricular competencies and content for both courses through a rich exploration of local and global Indigenous content, culture, and history

## Supporting Student Success:

### Overview of support systems:

Our school has been working on improving course completions through:

- Providing different methods of demonstrating learning
- Allowing for student choice, where possible, for assignments, resources like book choice, and other opportunities to choose their own learning journey
- We work with other schools' inclusion support teams to support diverse learners needs through adapting our online course or requirements to meet their needs
- Allowing students to use software and other resources when needed to support their learning
- Having learners work with an EA, online or in person if needed
- Using our school-based team to address needs that are beyond what we typically see in our courses
- Having a soft deadline of June for courses, that students can request an extension beyond (we find a little pressure can help learners to rise to the challenge)
- Having triggers for our teachers to reach out to learners when they have been inactive with compassionate inquiry to find out what their barriers have been
- We have been working to establish manageable workloads for our teachers so that they have the capacity to engage vulnerable and disengaged students as needed
- For students for whom we are the school of record, we have additional supports from admin, child and youth worker(s), inclusion support workers, coordinators, ELL teachers, school psychologists, counselors, and speech and language pathologists who work as a team to address student needs

## Measuring success

Our online school has maintained tracking documents that include all active courses, and their completion status. These are for individual courses in grades 10-12.

School Year	Percent Complete	Percent Withdrawn	Percent In-Progress
2016-17	65.6%	27.2%	7.2%
2017-18	64.7%	24.8%	10.6%
2018-19	60.7%	31.9%	7.4%
2019-20	65.9%	26.7%	7.4%
2020-21 #	73.5%	19.6%	6.9%
Current year in progress (as of December 8)	36.8%	11.5%	51.6%

**#Note** – new courses with new curriculum fully implemented, success rates are stronger despite large increase in number of students.

