



## NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

#### INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: January 5, 2022  
TO: Education Committee  
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent & Brett Hancock, Principal  
SUBJECT: Learning Alternatives Programs

---

Learning Alternatives enrolls students in six programs.

Senior Learning Alternatives is a grade 10-12 program that inspires students to create a vision for their future while teachers offer supports to help translate that vision into reality. Raven's Lelum – Young Parent Program offers specialized programming that prioritizes overall student wellness alongside coursework. The program empowers young parents to achieve positive academic performance in conjunction with effective parenting abilities. These two programs, located at John Barsby Community School, enrol 133 students.

The Intro to Trades program is an innovative program that enrolls 15 students each semester. The program provides opportunities for students to complete academic courses as well as work alongside a teacher in a shop, on a Learning Studio, or in the community. The program is located at Woodlands Secondary School.

Take a Hike is a full-time grade 8-12 program using the outdoors and adventure to engage vulnerable youth in learning and their community while providing mental health supports. A full-time clinical counsellor is embedded in the program, supporting 31 students. The program is located at Woodlands Secondary School.

The Family Learning Outreach and Wellness (FLOW) program is designed to provide social-emotional and mental health support for eleven academically driven students whose current mental health makes it difficult to attend their larger brick and mortar high school. The program provides a low stimulus environment that removes many of the anxiety drivers experienced by these students. The program is located at Island Connect Ed (previously Mount Benson)

Alternatives Based Opportunities United by Teamwork (ABOUT) program enrolls 175 students and is located at Woodlands Secondary School. It is a vibrant grade 8-12 program that incorporates unique learning opportunities and indigenous cultural education as the foundation to core academics. Student have flexible scheduling and individualized support as they work toward completing graduation requirements. The program includes students who have transitioned from Tsawalk program formerly part of School District #84.