

5.32 Accessibility Plan (2023-2026)

About Our School

The Living and Learning school is an independent, parent-run school located in the Village of Daajing Giids on Haida Gwaii with a maximum enrolment of 22 students K-7. The school is operated by the Daajing Giids Youth Education Society, a registered non-profit, charitable organization. The School welcomes whole family involvement including grandparents and younger siblings. We strive to meet the needs of students with a board range of abilities and challenges.

Accessibility Committee

Under the Accessible B.C. Act, organizations must be part of an Accessibility Committee. Under the Accessible B.C. Act, the selection of accessibility committee members must, to the extent possible, align with the following goals:

- At least half the members are persons with disabilities (PWD), or individuals who support or are from organizations that support PWDs;
- At least one member is an Indigenous person; and
- Members reflect the diversity of persons in B.C.

As a member of the Associate Member Society of the FISABC (AMS), The Living and Learning School participates in the AMS Association-level Accessibility Committee. This committee keeps our school apprised as to the requirements of the Accessible BC Act and shares resources among the 130 member schools to support the reduction of accessibility barriers within the independent school sector. The AMS Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAAC) fulfills the requirements of the BC Accessibility Act on behalf of its member schools and provides accessibility perspective and advice to the AMS Board and member schools with respect to achieving goals related to universal accessibility.

The mandate of the committee is as follows:

- To inform AMS member schools about the requirements of the BC Accessibility Act.
- To provide advice to member schools about the development of policies and programs to educate and inform on matters affecting students, parents, staff members and guests with disabilities and/or physical or mental challenges and universal accessibility
- To provide advice to the AMS Board about the development of AAAC policies and programs to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are considered.

At the School level, the Health and Safety Committee will be responsible for enacting and reviewing the School's Three-Year Accessibility Plan. The Committee will keep the school community informed regarding requirements and changes and complete an annual inspection of the school to identify accessibility projects.

Accessibility Feedback Tool

The Living and Learning School has posted an online feedback tool that included a series of questions about accessibility experiences that students, staff and members of the school community could complete. The tool was posted to the school website and an information announcement about the tool was provided to students, staff and parents/guardians. Feedback could be anonymous, or people could add their name and contact information if they wished to be contacted. There was also an option for people to upload a video, voice recording or photo(s).

The following are the contents of the online Accessibility Feedback Tool:

Report an Accessibility Barrier or Support

At the Living and Learning School, we want to learn about specific barriers or helpful supports that people encounter when they are trying to access the school building, events, or school information.

This information can be submitted anonymously, or you can provide your contact details at the bottom of this form if you wish to be contacted.

The Living and Learning School Health and Safety Committee will review your feedback and it will be used for future accessibility planning. If you need an accommodation for your student or if this is an urgent matter, please contact the school directly.

1. Please provide the date the barrier or support was experienced.
2. Please select the location where the barrier or support was experienced.
3. What were you or someone you know trying to access?
4. Accessibility barrier or support details (be as specific as possible).
5. Do you have any recommendations for what would make it better?
6. Attach files if you wish to provide additional information (e.g., video, voice recording, photos).
7. Please provide your name and email or phone number if you would like to be contacted. (optional)

Thank you for your feedback!

Accessibility Accomplishments and Barriers

- In 2022 one student bathroom was modified for students with ability needs, a bar was added next to toilet and mirror was lowered, the soap dispenser was changed as was the door knob type.
- Our general school structure is modelled to accommodate diverse learning needs with small groups, high staff/student ratios, lots of outdoor movement and a philosophy of inclusion regardless of ability, which is necessary in multi-age classes for all students.
- Our field trip planning forms and process now includes consideration of special needs.
- We undertake yearly review of Individual Education Plans for students with special education needs.

Action Items

- Improve beach access path
- Connect with Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee
- Modify upstairs student bathroom as was done with downstairs
- Complete a thorough accessibility survey in the 2023-24 School Year

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school Health and Safety Committee will evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken to date and work to identify new courses of action and report to the board and whole school community.

Plans will be reviewed every 3 years.