

SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES PLAN

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Facilities Plan must:

- Support the mandate established in our School District Mission Statement
- Move the District to become the organization seen in our School District Vision Statement
- Work within the Cultural Values we have established to govern our actions
- All actions, processes and decisions are viewed as transparent and reflect our Cultural Values of Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, Empathy and Fairness

Our Mission

To educate students in a safe, inspirational learning environment where every student develops the knowledge and skills to be a lifelong learner and a healthy productive member of our global society.

Our Vision

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) is a progressive leader in education, which sets the standard for educational excellence and ensures that every student has opportunities to succeed.

School District Facilities Plan - Guiding Principles

In developing a Long Range School District Facilities Plan, the District will use the following Guiding Principles to ensure alignment with the District Vision, Mission and Values.

- All decisions are made in the best interest of students
- The District obtain the best value for money
- Community and partner group input are valued
- Long-stability and sustainability are considerations in all financial decisions
- Sufficient flexibility in the system is maintained to accommodate unexpected challenges and changes in direction

To foster an outstanding learning experience for students, facilities should:

- Be driven by curriculum, program, instruction, assessment needs etc.
- Provide conditions and opportunities which support the attributes of a learner in the 21st century
- Provide flexibility/adaptability for current and future uses
- Support the integration and use of learning technologies
- Optimize the integration of services to support students

To support the teaching and learning process, facilities should:

- Provide meeting space for staff to collaborate on assessment, best practice and instructional improvement to meet the needs of all learners
- Create intentional informal gathering and study areas to support student's intellectual engagement and provide warm, inviting student spaces and spaces for staff needs
- Enhance extra-curricular involvement by providing adequate and appropriate spaces for:
 - Student activities
 - Athletics
 - Fine and Performing Arts
 - Schools of Choice criteria
- Strive to provide a consistent student experience across all programs on all sites – equitable access
- Strive to provide a safe, healthy learning environment

In sustainable building plans, facilities should:

- Maximize the sustainability of school facilities in accordance with the energy and sustainability policies of the district
- Schools should be energy efficient, with a goal of achieving carbon neutrality if possible
- Consider the building condition facility audits and effective lifespan of facilities
- Consider impact of parking, outdoor traffic, pedestrian and school bus loading issues

Long range facilities plans should:

- Accommodate existing and projected enrolments
- Take into account school feeder patterns in order to maximize effectiveness of facilities
- Wherever possible locate schools to observe community boundaries and reduce the need for students to cross major arterial roads
- Reflect understanding of community needs and minimize the impact of solutions on the surrounding neighbourhood
- Ensure space is flexible in use for future needs, changes, and growth in academic programs
- Minimize the use of temporary portable structures
- Maximize the efficient use of existing space
- Ensure that life cycle costing is evaluated when sourcing materials and equipment
- Use school closure as a last resort
- Support community use and partnerships where appropriate, including the Ministry of Education Neighbourhoods of Learning Program

To ensure viability, any facilities project should:

- Ensure construction phasing minimizes the negative impact on the educational program and that phasing is efficient and reasonable in scope
- Create plans that respect the immediate neighbourhood and community
- Incorporate economically feasible principles of sustainable design
- Complete construction within the budget allotted

To enhance equitable access, facilities should:

- Provide handicapped accessible spaces for all school and community programs
- Ensure ease of access to programs open to the community while maintaining the safety and security of students
- Plan for elementary schools to be neighbourhood centric, middle and secondary to be regional