

Welcome to the Greater Victoria School District

The Greater Victoria School District is located in the Capital Region of British Columbia. It is comprised of 47 schools that serve the communities of Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Victoria, and portions of Saanich, View Royal, and the Highlands. In addition, it serves Four Houses: Esquimalt Nations, Songhees Nations, the Urban Indigenous Peoples' House Advisory, and the Métis Nations of Greater Victoria. The District is proud to provide quality education for more than 20,000 students in 28 elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 5), 10 middle schools (Grades 6-8), 7 secondary schools (Grades 9-12), and 2 alternative sites. More than 900 International students from across the globe attend our schools, and each year, more than 650 adult learners register for programming.

The Greater Victoria School District acknowledges the Songhees Nation and the Esquimalt Nation as Rightsholders. We highlight our commitment to the Local Education Agreements with both Nations.

What documents are required to register for school?

To register a student in any school, a parent or legal guardian/caregiver must provide:



1. Proof of School Age Eligibility and Citizenship

A child must reach five years of age by December 31st of the school year to enroll. Documentation can include:

- Child's original Birth Certificate
- Canadian Passport
- Landed Immigrant authorization
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Status Card

Parents who are not Canadian Citizens, Landed Immigrants, or do not have a birth certificate for their child must contact the International Student Program by calling 250.592.6871, prior to registration.

2. Proof of Residential Address

Every home address in the Greater Victoria School District is connected to a catchment school. Students must register at their catchment school. To determine which schools are associated with a home address, visit the [School Locator Tool](http://www.sd61.bc.ca) at www.sd61.bc.ca. Type in the address and it will indicate which school the student should attend based on their residential address.

The request for the below documentation is for the sole purpose of identifying and confirming school catchments. Please provide only the page that confirms the legal guardian's name and mailing address. Please redact any other personal information.

Homeowners

Required to provide current copies of TWO of the following documents:

- Purchase agreement of home
- Property tax statement
- Homeowner's insurance
- BC Property Assessment
- A purchase agreement (with subject removal and a deposit receipt if a recent purchase)

If a homeowner is only able to produce one of the above, they must also produce TWO of the following:

- Canadian bank or credit card statement
- BC vehicle registration
- Income tax statement
- Insurance documents

Renters

Required to prove home address by providing:

- ☑ A rental agreement signed by landlord with landlord's contact phone number

In addition, TWO of the following are required:

- ☑ Canadian bank or credit card statement
- ☑ BC vehicle registration
- ☑ Income tax statement
- ☑ Renters Insurance documents

What programs do we offer?

Kindergarten

Full-day Kindergarten programs are offered in every elementary school. Kindergarten establishes a strong foundation for lifelong learning, as teachers provide dynamic, play-based opportunities to help each child grow and learn. Child-centered programs develop a sense of well-being and belonging and offer opportunities for exploring, creative play, developing language and literacy, and focusing on social responsibility and diversity.

Kindergarten Student Transfer Process

Parents who wish to have their child attend a school other than their catchment school can submit a transfer application at their catchment school during Kindergarten Registration Week.

At the end of Kindergarten Registration Week, the enrolment numbers of in-catchment students at each school are reviewed. Once all catchment students have been accommodated, transfer applications will be considered based on the Student Enrolment Priorities. If a student is not approved for this transfer request, they can apply again for a different school during the K-12 Transfer Process.

Secondary Programs of Choice

There are a variety of secondary programs of choice and career programs offered to meet the diverse needs and interests of students. Registration is based on specific criteria through a separate application process. A transfer application is not required. Please refer to secondary school websites for more information.

Which school do we register for?

Each home address is associated with an elementary, middle, and secondary school. To determine which schools are associated with your home address, visit www.sd61.bc.ca and click on **Schools** and then **School Locator Tool**. Type in the address and it will indicate which school the student should attend based on their residential address for both English and French Immersion.



How do we register?

The District has an online registration process. To register a student visit: www.sd61.bc.ca/registration.



French Immersion

Early - Kindergarten and Grade 1

Any student entering Kindergarten or Grade 1 can enroll in French Immersion at their French catchment school. French Immersion is a District program offered at nine elementary schools. No prior knowledge of French is expected or required, and transportation is the responsibility of parents.

Late - Grade 6

Late entry to French Immersion is offered to any student entering Grade 6 at their dual track school. The district program is offered at the following four schools: Arbutus Global, Central, Lansdowne, and Shoreline Middle School. No prior knowledge of French is expected or required. Transportation is the responsibility of the parents.

Can we choose to attend a different school than our catchment school?

Students wishing to attend at a school outside of their English or French catchment school must apply to transfer. Transfer requests can be made online when registering for Kindergarten, or at your current school at any grade level during the annual Student Transfer Process. Transfer applications are reviewed based on the Student Enrolment Priorities and the availability of space at the desired school. When there are fewer spaces than the number of applicants a lottery will take place in accordance with the Student Enrolment Priorities.



What are school catchment pathways?

Each school belongs to a Family of Schools. The school groupings consist of school pathways where in-catchment students follow a determined school pathway through their transitions from elementary to middle, and middle to secondary. Non-catchment students no longer automatically follow the school pathway and transition to the catchment pathway school. If a student attends a non-catchment school in elementary or middle school, they must apply to transfer to their non-catchment middle or secondary school during the K-12 Student Transfer Process.

Which students are accepted when schools are full?

When there are more students than a school can accommodate, enrolment will be prioritized based on:



- 1) Reenrolling students
- 2) A catchment area sibling
- 3) A catchment area child
- 4) A non-catchment sibling
- 5) A non-catchment child
- 6) A non-school district child

Student enrolment priorities apply to all new registrations, transfer requests, elementary to middle and middle to secondary transitions, for English and French programs.

In the event space is limited and a middle or secondary school cannot accept all non-catchment student requests, priority will be given to those non-catchment students already in the determined pathway of schools over other non-catchment, non-pathway students.

Newcomers to Canada

Permanent Residence and Refugee Claimants, please contact:

Welcome Centre
250.475.4157
welcomecentre@sd61.bc.ca

Study or work permit holders, please visit our International Education website to begin the registration process:

www.studyinvictoria.com

Continuing Education

Looking to improve skills, upgrade courses, graduate or complete pre-requisite courses for post-secondary schools? SJ Burnside Continuing Education Centre offers day and evening classes delivered through active, teacher-led instruction and self-paced options. Some courses are available tuition free for adults who have already graduated.

S.J. Burnside Continuing Education Centre
498 Cecelia Road, Victoria BC, V8T 4T5
250.360.4300
ce@sd61.bc.ca
www.ce.sd61.bc.ca

2027–2028 School Year Registration Important Dates



Date	Items to Remember
January 11-15, 2027	Early French Immersion Registration Week (Kindergarten and Grade 1)
January 25-29, 2027	Kindergarten Registration and Kindergarten Transfer Week Grade 6 – Late French Immersion Registration Week
January 29, 2027	Deadline to submit Secondary Programs of Choice and Career Program Applications
February 8-11, 2027	Kindergarten to Grade 12 transfer process Registration opens for new Grade 1 – Grade 12 students
February 10, 2027	Secondary schools inform students about acceptance status into Programs of Choice and Career Programs
February 11, 2027	Deadline to submit transfer requests (no later than 3:30pm)
(on or before) March 12, 2027	Notification of all transfer decisions will be communicated to families
May 13, 2027	District Orientation/Student Transition Day

Contact Us

For more information and a list of all our schools, visit: www.sd61.bc.ca.

Your catchment school will be able to answer any specific questions you may have.

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC, V8Z 1E8

250.475.3212

community@sd61.bc.ca

  Greater Victoria School District

  @sd61schools

Disclaimer: This guide is to serve as a resource for registering a student in the Greater Victoria School District. Please refer to Board of Education approved regulations and policies on all matters.