

Accessibility Plan  
Choice School for Gifted Children  
2023



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## 1. Introduction

The Accessibility British Columbia Act became law in BC in June 2021. Accessibility standards being developed and implemented will help remove and prevent barriers that restrict people with disabilities from equally participating in their community and foster an inclusive environment.

The province has proclaimed Saturday December 3, 2022, as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This awareness day, which the United Nations first observed in 1992, has the theme of “transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world”.

Accessibility Week has now been established, beginning on the last Sunday in May each year.

Government and listed organizations, including independent schools and public-school districts, must complete the following requirements under Part 3 of the Accessible BC Act (by September 1, 2023):

1. Establish an Accessibility Committee
2. Develop an Accessibility Plan
3. Create a mechanism to receive feedback on barriers to accessibility from members of the community.

## 2. Terms

### **Barriers to Accessibility**

A **barrier** is anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person navigating needs or disabilities.

**Impairment** includes a physical, sensory, mental, intellectual, or cognitive impairment, whether permanent, temporary, or episodic.

## 3. About our School Community

Choice School is an independent school serving 50 students from across the Lower Mainland on a campus located in Richmond, BC. Our school currently offers education from K-Grade 8.

We have a wide variety of specialty programs, including all geared towards gifted children.

**Leadership Team:**

Head of School – Mr. Sukhbir Bolina

**Teaching Staff - 8**

EA's - 5

**Administrative & Support Staff - 4**

The **Choice School** Board establishes policies and the strategic direction of Choice School. The Choice School Board meets regularly throughout the year and addresses issues as they arise.

## 4. A Message from the Head of the School

At Choice School, we are committed to providing a learning and working environment that supports all students and staff and provides equitable opportunities to support our diverse community. A key element to supporting our community is the development of a Three-Year Accessibility Plan. This plan identifies system needs, priorities, and action plans, and draws on feedback from our school community and the work of the Accessibility Committee to enhance equity of access to programming and our facilities.

Our Accessibility Committee is a diverse team that meets regularly in order to identify priorities and develop and monitor action plans highlighted in the Three-Year Accessibility Plan. The plan identifies measurable actions across the pillars of the Accessibility Act, supporting equal opportunity for persons with disabilities by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers to access.

We recognize the importance of accessibility not only for those with disabilities but also for the benefit of the entire community. We are committed to advancing the efforts of the Accessibility Committee to improve equity and ease of access to services, as well as access to our facilities. Through the actions in this Three-Year Accessibility Plan, we commit to continuous improvements in developing an environment that supports all students and the larger school community.

## 5. Territorial Acknowledgements

We acknowledge and thank the Katzie, Tsawwassen, Kwantlen, and Musqueam First Peoples on who's traditional, unceded, and stolen territories we live, work, and play.

We acknowledge the ancestors; those who have walked before us and thank them for the stewardship of this beautiful, bountiful land where we learn, teach, and create. We commit to take care of it, respect it, and use the resources wisely.

We acknowledge the Elders, the keepers of traditional knowledge, wisdom, and Indigenous ways of knowing. We have much to learn about resilience and responsibility from you. We commit to asking questions, being open to learning from others, and acknowledging what we don't know.

## 6. Framework Guiding Our Work

Choice School Accessibility plan falls under the umbrella of the AMS (FISA) Accessibility Committee Plan and will be reviewed, updated, and revised as necessary on an ongoing basis in response to community feedback that is received.

Choice School Accessibility Working Group will do a physical audit of the property and buildings to determine upgrades/goals to be achieved by June 2023.

## 7. Choice School Accessibility Working Group

Choice School Working Group Members:

- Mr. Sukhbir Bolina
- Ms. Carly Fredette
- Mr. Quinn Provost
- Ms. Tracee Bonnici
- Ms. Amber Howlett

Members of the community are invited to express interest in joining the Accessibility Working Group, including those people:

- With disabilities
- With children or youth with disabilities
- People who work or volunteer for Choice School
- People or organizations that support people with disabilities.

The Choice School Working Group will follow the principle of “nothing about us without us.”

The group will meet 4 times per year.

To apply to become a member of the Choice School Working Group, please complete send your request to the Principal.

## 8. Community Feedback Tool

Please use the online tool on the website.