



1.3 Inclusive Education General Guidelines

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) promotes equitable access to education for all learners while honouring the diversity that each learner contributes to our society.

As outlined in the British Columbia [School Act](#) (RSBC 1996, Ch.412), school-age residents are entitled to enrol in our schools. Our mission as educators is outlined within the Act's preamble:

... it is the goal of a democratic society to ensure that all its members receive an education that enables them to become literate, personally fulfilled and publicly useful, thereby increasing the strength and contributions to the health and stability of that society;

... the purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable all learners to become literate, to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy;

As a district, we are guided by the following statements:

- We believe in the equitable participation and appreciation of the contributions of all learners.
- We promote understanding, acceptance, dignity, mutual respect and inclusion in order to make our school communities equitable for all learners.
- We provide high quality education to all learners in a setting that is most enabling and least restrictive.

Aligned to the British Columbia Ministry of Education Diversity in BC Schools [Policy](#), SD8 provides those conditions that foster success for all students, including

- equitable access to and equitable participation in quality education for all learners.
- district and school cultures that value diversity and respond to the diverse social, physical, and cultural needs of the communities we serve.
- school cultures that promote understanding of others and respect for all.
- learning and working environments that are safe and welcoming and free from discrimination, harassment and violence.
- decision making processes that give a voice to all members of the school community.
- policies and practices that promotes fair and equitable treatment of all learners.