

AP 2109: Online Learning

1. Guiding Principles

- 1.1. The Board recognizes that all or part of an educational program may be provided by means of Distance Learning.
- 1.2. The Board believes that Distance Learning provides an opportunity for students and families to exercise choice with respect to the environment, methods and structures through which students are able to achieve their educational goals. Such choice is important for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, the following:
- 1.3. the Board believes that Distance Learning improves the equity of access to education, providing an option to students who may be unable to work entirely within a conventional classroom setting;
- 1.4. the Board believes that Distance Learning provides flexibility for students who, while attending neighbourhood schools, wish to pursue a course or multiple courses through Distance Learning in order to overcome timetable challenges, to access unique course opportunities, or to gain valuable learning skills through working in an online environment.
- 1.5. The Board believes that students who study through Distance Learning are afforded an enhanced opportunity to develop as 21st Century learners, acquiring technical skills, research and study skills, and learning strategies that will increase their opportunities for success in their future educational and work-related endeavours.
- 1.6. The Board recognizes that courses and programs offered through Distance Learning must comply with best practice and current pedagogical methods in order to ensure that students who study through Distance Learning are given the best possible educational experience.

The Board, in accordance with the commitment made by the British Columbia Ministry of Education, believes that it is important to provide options to adult learners who are in pursuit of their adult graduation requirements and acknowledges the importance of Distance Learning as one such option.

A more detailed and comprehensive overview of administrative procedures is contained within the School District #8 Distributed Learning (DL) Administration Manual of Procedures and Guidelines (<https://www.sd8.bc.ca/node/36848>), which can be found on the Elev8 website.

2. Distributed Learning Agreement

- 2.1. All policy and procedures pertaining to the Distance Learning program in School District No 8 - Kootenay Lake will be in accordance with the British Columbia Ministry of Education Distributed Learning Agreement.

3. Program Structure

- 3.1. The Distance Learning program will be offered exclusively through the district's Elev8 program, which is comprised of DESK (Distance Education School of the Kootenays) and Homelinks.
- 3.2. Some Distance Learning courses offered by Elev8 may be taught from within neighbourhood schools, either as stand-alone courses or in partnership with Elev8.
- 3.3. Elev8 will offer curriculum via Distance Learning methods (online/web-based courses or, where online options are unavailable, print-based courses) and will adhere to requirements for content and delivery outlined by Ministry of Education policy.
- 3.4. Distance Learning courses and programs will be created and taught based upon current best practice standards in Distance Learning (at time of writing, the Standards for K-12 Distributed Learning in British Columbia).

4. Access to Distance Learning

- 4.1. School-aged students who are ordinarily resident in British Columbia may register for Distance Learning courses/programs at Elev8 at no charge.
- 4.2. Adult non-graduate students who are ordinarily resident in British Columbia may register for Distance Learning courses that lead to graduation at Elev8 at no charge.
- 4.3. Adult students who have already graduated from secondary school may register for Distance Learning courses at Elev8. Courses which are authorized by the British Columbia Education Guarantee will be offered to such students at no charge to the student; courses which are not authorized by the British Columbia Education Guarantee may be offered to such students for a tuition fee to be established by the school.
- 4.4. Students who register for Elev8 courses will be required to pay a deposit for materials where applicable.

5. Registration and Enrolment

- 5.1. Registration and enrolment in the Elev8 Distance Learning program will occur at the school level.
- 5.2. Students will be informed of the attributes that are suited to success in the Distance Learning model of instruction.
- 5.3. Students will be accepted on the basis of capacity in Distance Learning (as defined by the Ministry of Education).
- 5.4. Where capacity is limited, students from within School District No 8 catchment will be given priority over students who reside outside of the School District No 8 catchment area.
- 5.5. Students may register for individual Distance Learning courses or for complete Distance Learning programs, as allowed by Ministry of Education.

6. Cross-enrollment and Partnerships with Neighbourhood Schools

- 6.1. Students who are enrolled at a neighbourhood school either within or outside of School District No. 8 may enroll in the Elev8 Distance Learning program for courses (as per rules set by the Ministry of Education).

- 6.2. Where a student whose School of Record is a neighbourhood school, Elev8 will communicate course progress and results with the School of Record in addition to reporting to parents as per the School Act.
- 6.3. Elev8 and School District No 8 neighbourhood schools will work together to formalize partnership structures, where resources (i.e., staffing, timetable availability, physical space) are available, to support students in their pursuit of Distance Learning opportunities.