

Hazelton Secondary School

2024-2025 School Improvement Plan

Our Context

Hazelton Secondary School is a learning environment situated on traditional Gitxsan Lax'yip (territory), nurturing approximately 375 learners in Grades 8-12. We take immense pride in recognizing and honoring the diversity inherent in our student body. Our school is deeply connected to the surrounding seven Indigenous communities of Gitanyow, Gitanmaax, Gitsegukla, Gitwangak, Sik-e-dakh, Tse-Kya, and Anspayaxw. We are committed to fostering an environment where cultural connection is celebrated, and authentic cultural diversity is seamlessly integrated into our learning processes.

Our Learners

The learners of HSS are not just scholars; they are artists, athletes, leaders, volunteers, mentors, and caretakers, excelling and making their mark in countless ways. Their accomplishments span from robust athletic teams in volleyball, soccer, basketball, hockey, and softball, to individuals shining brightly on the global stage, even reaching as far as the Olympics. The students' artwork, which graces our hallways, stands as a testament to their creativity, serving as enduring symbols of the artistic spirits that thrive among us. At HSS, our learners are models of acceptance, demonstrating patience and inclusivity that resonate within our school and beyond. As you walk our halls, their welcoming voices echo, affirming the sense of community we cherish. We must further empower our students in their journey of self-advocacy. We aim to amplify their voices, encouraging them to take pride in their accomplishments and engage in positive, inquisitive dialogue with others. We aspire to rekindle and support our learners' connection with their educational journey, fostering a sense of trust in their abilities as they navigate the expansive world of knowledge.

Reimagine-Reignite-Reengage-Empower

(in conjunction with the District's vision)

Our Focus

Our aim is to **reimagine** and **reignite** our school's educational landscape, **empowering** students to **re-engage** deeply with their learning. We strive to foster an environment that nurtures cultural connectedness, infuses confidence, promotes regular attendance, and encourages positive self-advocacy. In doing so, we intend to cultivate a cognizant and celebratory educational setting for our learners.

Goals

- ☆ I can actively explore and incorporate the [First Peoples' Principles of Learning](#) into my academic, social, spiritual, and cultural life to foster a deeper respect and understanding of my culture and increase my capacity for cultural awareness and inclusivity.
- ☆ I can advocate for my social-emotional and academic learning needs to re-engage with the learning process for my personal success.
- ☆ I can create, envision, understand, and execute short and long-term goals for my personal, academic, and social success.
- ☆ I can collaborate with others to achieve shared objectives.

Our Next Steps

- ❑ We will co-construct success plans based on the individual needs of learners through regular scheduled check-ins, team collaboration, and consultation (in partnership with Indigenous Support Workers, teachers, admin, and learners).
- ❑ We will improve attendance rates by continuing to monitor learner attendance data, collaborating with learners and caregivers, incentive/ recognition programs, and connecting with the education coordinators of each band to help learners feel safe attending class as well as prioritizing low-attenders for increased care.

Steps to Culturally Relevant and Responsive Education

- ❑ We will provide culturally relevant programming across all curriculum areas and extra-curricular activities through continued professional development, community consultation, and the newly developed [HSS Cultural Calendar for the 2024/2025 school year](#).
- ❑ We will work with local Indigenous artists to continue revamping our building to make our school a beautiful and culturally safe feeling space.

Steps to Nurturing Learner Mental Health and Care

- ❑ We will increase the availability and accessibility of mental health support services for all learners. This will be done in collaboration with Foundry BC, local organizations, and the surrounding bands to increase the number of mental health professionals available to our students, provide mental health training for all staff, and implementing the Open Parachute mental health curriculum.
- ❑ We will support all staff to develop skills and strategies to cultivate strong relationships with each learner.
- ❑ We will provide opportunities for all learners to build relationships and support their social-emotional, academic, physical, and spiritual needs, through positive self-choice (continuation of X-Block successful launched in the 2023-2024 school year).