



# HOW PREPARED ARE OUR CHILDREN FOR THE FUTURE?

Many people argue that our current education system is not able to prepare our children for the future they face. The velocity, scope and systems impacts of technology on our communities and societies is unprecedented. Skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication are much more desired in the 21st Century. Specialized knowledge can be automated but skills such as problem solving and innovation cannot be replaced easily by computers.

The BC Ministry of Education realizes that our society is changing at a fast rate and, to address this, has modernized the BC curriculum to better prepare our children for the future. The public schools in the Cowichan Valley are currently transitioning to this new model. The Cowichan Valley is also rich in private and specialized education alternatives and is proud to host the Vancouver Island University, Cowichan Campus.

# GRADING OUR EDUCATION



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Crofton Elementary School

## STUDENT POPULATION <sup>1</sup> Elementary K - 7

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2019/20<br>4834 | 2020/21<br>4901 |
|-----------------|-----------------|

## Secondary 8 - 12

|                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2019/20<br>2680 | 2020/21<br>3172 <b>Comparison</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|



## GRADUATION RATES (2019) <sup>2,3,4,5</sup>

|                                           |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cowichan School District 79</b><br>82% | <b>Nanaimo - Ladysmith School District 68</b><br>79% |
| <b>First Nations - SD79</b><br>53%        | <b>British Columbia</b><br>85%                       |

**Comparison**



## ON THE RISE <sup>6,7</sup>

Contrary to popular belief, enrollment is on the rise and is expected to continue to grow. The number of children enrolled in SD79 increased by more than 200 in 2017, making it the third straight year of enrollment growth for the district.

## POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT

Since the 2011 opening of the Vancouver Island University, Cowichan Campus, the number of students attending has increased by 40%. From 1,092 to 1,537 students in 2019/20. Warren Weir, (Academic Administrator), says "the increase is partly due to additional programs the campus is able to offer since moving to the new building, as well as the expansion of the dual credit program with School District 79."

## Number of Schools in District 79 <sup>15</sup>



## TUITION & FEES based on undergraduate year-long full time course load, 2019. <sup>14</sup> **Comparison**

**Simon Fraser University** <sup>13</sup>  
\$6,266

**\$6,550** <sup>11</sup>  
**University of Victoria**

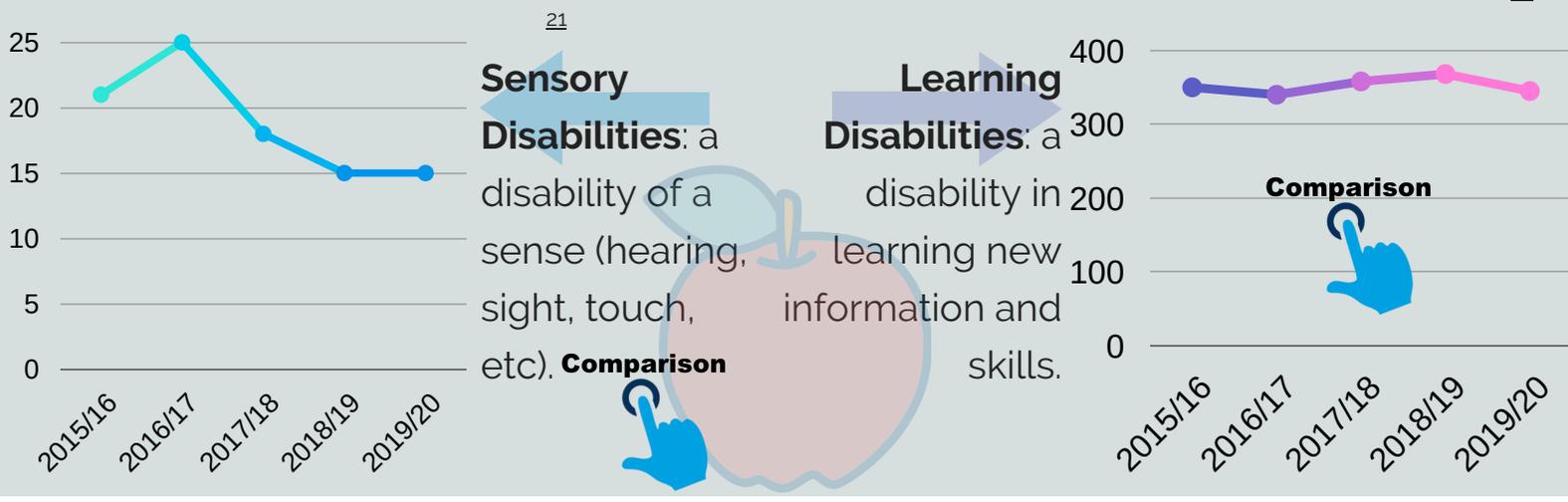
**Thompson Rivers University** <sup>12</sup>  
\$5,285

**\$4,914** <sup>10</sup>  
**Vancouver Island University**



# GRADING OUR EDUCATION

## Population of Students with Special Needs



## SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT

In the summer of 2015, a rally was held to bring awareness to the lack of special needs programming for young adults once they transition out of the education system. The Clements Centre issued a statement in response to the rally saying it "is aware of a need for additional supports for adults with developmental disabilities in the Cowichan region [...] young people and their families, who live in our community, many of whom may be your neighbours, face very difficult decisions as the level of support changes from government agencies when children with special needs turn 19 years old," <sup>16</sup>The Mindful Mouthful, is a newly formed social innovation program developed by the Clements Centre to respond to some of the lack of services and resources including employment opportunities for adults with special needs. <sup>17</sup>

Due to increasing enrolment in the Cowichan School District, the district is expecting an increase of \$2.6M for the 2017/2018 school year. The district expects to hire 16 new teachers and approximately 20 educational assistants. This news is welcomed by parents of special needs students however the needs of special needs are on the rise and the demand for specialized supports continues to grow.

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## EARLY YEAR SUPPORT

Success by 6 has helped to create an outreach program. It is called Books'n'Bubbles, which is a bus that delivers drop-in play-based program that encourages early learning, and provides literacy programs to children and their caregivers. The program targets families that live in outlying communities where access to programs are limited.

"Sometimes we were in darkness, and the bus brought us so much light" - Parent located in the Cowichan Valley Region.

## We asked, Youth Answered:<sup>19</sup>

August 16, 2016

### What would a youth friendly community look like to you?

"Everyone helping out"

"Kind, considerate, understanding of differences"

"Everyone accepting you as you are"

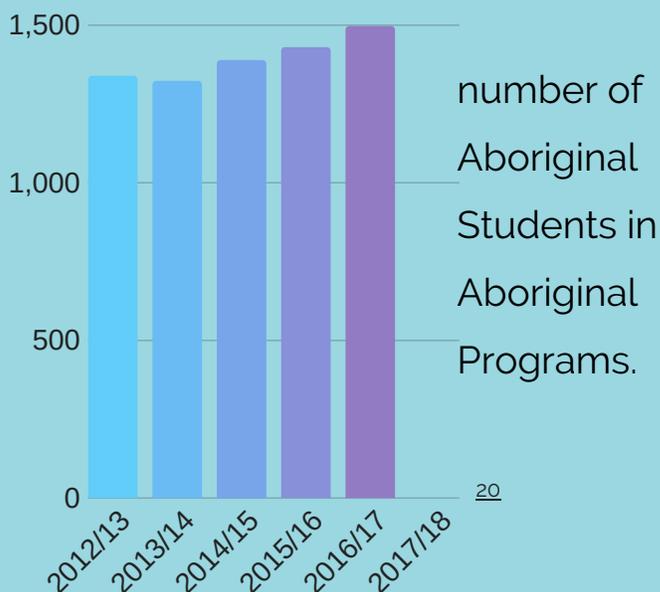
### What are some things about youth that you would like the rest of the community to know about?

"We are all different"

"We want to have a voice. We do have a voice if you give us the chance"

"We are kind, have worth and are our future"

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION



The school district offers an array of programming for Aboriginal Education. Some of the programs are Métis camps, Aboriginal Dance, visits to the fish hatchery, working with an Aboriginal Artist, visits with the elders, presentations by indigenous experts on treaty histories, canoe races, and Hul'q'umi'num language lessons. Aboriginal students are also offered supports that would help them face challenges that could affect their schooling, such as counselling, homework support, or daily check-ins.<sup>18</sup>