

Partners in Education



Program Handbook

School District 47 Powell River, BC

Partners in Education Program Handbook

School District 47
School Board Office
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PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Partners in Education (PIE) Program is a distributed learning school that allows children to be educated, in part or whole, at sites outside of regular school campuses.

For families who have chosen to follow provincial curriculum, the PIE Program offers assistance, direction, and flexibility. Program options include distributed learning courses, participation in select district classes, individualized programs designed by teachers, or a combination program. Central to each of these options, however, is the provincial curriculum.

The BC Ministry of Education issues “statements of what students are expected to know and be able to do at an indicated grade”. These statements, called learning outcomes, are specific for each grade and constitute the curriculum students will follow.

Each PIE Program option is outlined below, but only the PIE Program is explained at length, since the other options involve additional programs which provide their own support information.

PIE PROGRAM EDUCATION OPTIONS

A. PIE Program

The PIE Program is an individualized program. This option allows parents to take part in educating their children under the direction of a BC certified teacher.

Parents work together with the teacher to develop an individualized Student Learning Plan for each child based on grade-specific learning outcomes. Although the curriculum is set by the BC Ministry of Education, the PIE Program offers flexibility in the approach to the curriculum, taking into account the unique learning styles and needs of the students.

Often home educating families discover that enrollment in the PIE Program does not change their overall approach to educating their children. The element of change that comes with enrollment is accountability. Work samples must be presented to the teacher for assessment and report cards are issued based on these assessments.

By enrolling in the PIE Program, parents are agreeing to follow provincial curriculum, develop Student Learning Plans in conjunction with a BC certified teacher, and participate in assessments.

Provincial learning outcomes for grades K-10 can be found on the PIE Website at: <http://www.sd47.bc.ca/partners.html>

Provincial learning outcomes for all grades and subjects are available online at: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/irp.htm>

B. PIE Online Learning Program

School District 47 has access to the Online Consortium, which provides online courses for students in grades 7-12. Details about the courses offered in this program can be found online at: <http://www.coolschool.ca> . Parents interested in online classes should contact the co-ordinator in early September to make arrangements.

C. Select Enrollment Options

The Partners in Education Program allows families to combine various program options to include select enrollment in:

- District Classes
- Online Learning
- Other Distributed Learning Programs

Note: Parents interested in district classes should contact the coordinator by June 15th so that arrangements can be made for the following September.

ENROLLMENT

A. Registration vs. Enrollment

Students registered with a BC school are considered “homeschoolers” and are not required to follow provincial learning outcomes. Registration leaves families free to homeschool by the philosophy, curriculum, and schedule of their choice. Some schools offer modest funding to apply toward curriculum costs.

Partners in Education is an enrollment program. Enrolment differs from registration in that families choosing an enrollment program work with a BC certified teacher and are held accountable to meet provincial learning outcomes.

B. Enrollment Requirements

The PIE program may enroll students:

- in kindergarten through twelfth grade
- that are at least five years old by December 31st
- that reside in British Columbia
- whose families have email access

Note: School age children who are residents of BC must be registered with or enrolled in a BC school by September 30th each year.

C. How to Enroll

Forms are available at the School Board Office, or online at:

<http://www.sd47.bc.ca/partners.html> .

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PIE PROGRAM

A. Role of the Program Coordinator

The coordinator will:

- act as a liaison between enrolled families and the school district

- work with families and PIE teachers to develop SLPs (see below)
- organize and direct activities and field trips
- arrange home visits throughout the school year
- invigilate and make arrangements for student participation in provincial assessments
- arrange for standardized testing
- approve curricular materials
- approve and supervise delivery of coursework
- provide families with PIE email newsletters
- answer questions or concerns about the program

B. Role of the PIE Teacher

The teacher will:

- collaborate with parents to develop Student Learning Plans
- perform student assessments
- organize and direct activities and field trips
- supervise delivery of coursework
- assist parents when problems with progress or materials arise
- maintain regular contact with enrolled families

C. Role of the PIE Parent(s)

The parent(s) will:

- collaborate with PIE staff to develop Student Learning Plans
- request help from staff if problems with progress or materials arise
- maintain regular contact with staff to continually monitor student progress
- participate in home visits and/or provide portfolios of student work for assessment
- record or make sure student records Daily Physical Activity requirements

D. Role of the PIE Student

The student will:

- when appropriate, participate in the development of student learning plans
- request help from parent(s) and/or their teacher when they need it

- work to the best of their ability on all assignments and tests
- participate in the Daily Physical Activity requirements specific to their grade level

E. Student Learning Plans

Student Learning Plans (SLPs) reflect each family's unique philosophy of education. The SLP provides a written record of the family's goals and strategies for meeting the prescribed learning outcomes in each required area of study for individual students based on the student's grade level.

Parents work with a teacher to develop an SLP for each child, summarizing the teaching method, resources, and activities designed to meet the specific grade level's prescribed learning outcomes. The co-ordinator and/or the student's teacher will provide direction, advice, and assistance in this process. The parent and/or student will provide information about the student's interests, strengths, areas of need and learning style.

Parents are asked to submit copies of the Table of Contents of texts students will be working with if the texts differ from those supplied by the PIE program. Student Learning Plan forms are available from the coordinator or online at: <http://www.sd47.bc.ca/partners.html> .

F. Activities

In September, the coordinator will survey PIE families to gather ideas for enrichment activities and field trips which will be offered throughout the year. Notice about upcoming events is sent by email and interested families are asked to sign up in advance. The district will cover the expense of most of these activities; however, a fee may occasionally be charged. Parents are responsible for managing their children's behaviour according to the PIE Code of Conduct.

Note: Activities are open to students from all PIE Program Options.

G. Newsletters

The coordinator will issue periodic email newsletters to pass on general program information and to supply details about scheduled activities.

Newsletters also provide an opportunity for parents to share ideas and to buy, sell or trade teaching materials and resources. Interested parents may email submissions to the coordinator for approval and publication in the newsletters.

H. Provincial Requirements

Reporting

The BC Ministry of Education stipulates that a BCCT certified teacher conduct assessments in order to verify that provincial curriculum is being followed. Reporting follows the Ministry of Education guidelines and procedures which require three formal reports and at least two informal reports per year.

Assessments

Through observing activities, communicating with the family, and examining work samples, the teacher is able to identify learning outcomes which have been satisfied. This information, added to the results of any standardized testing, enables the teacher to produce a report card for each child three times a year.

Formal assessments involve a teacher review of work samples either through a home visit or by submission of a student portfolio. Many students enjoy this chance to show off the work they have been doing. Informal assessments may be accomplished by email, phone call, or home visit.

Home visits provide a chance for the teacher to interact with students and to view and discuss work samples. Alternatively, work samples may be submitted in the form of a student portfolio. However, since the student is not present to provide explanations, a written explanation must accompany each sample. Details about portfolio format and requirements are available from the co-ordinator.

Samples of student writing, mathematics, and reading documentation are needed for the student's files. If a teacher has insufficient evidence of learning outcomes being met, then a formal evaluation may be administered.

In the spring, Kindergarten students have the opportunity to participate in the “Firm Foundations” assessment, which evaluates a student’s reading readiness. This assessment is done by the student’s teacher in a fun and relaxed manner.

DISTRICT RESOURCES

A. General Services

The following services are available to students enrolled in PIE programs. Please contact the co-ordinator for further information.

- Counselor—personal, academic, or career counseling
- Psychologist—psycho-educational assessment and consultation
- Speech and Language Pathologist
- Physical and Occupational Therapist
- Vision Services
- Hearing Services
- Gifted Program
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Services

B. Computers

Technological Requirements

The primary means of communication for the PIE Program is email; therefore, each family must have a computer with an email address. Families in need of a computer may request one from the district.

Technical Support

The district provides technical support and servicing for district computers only. Depending on the trouble, a fee may be charged to the family’s resource funding account. Computer servicing is arranged through the coordinator.

C. Additional Support

Some consumable materials, fine arts activities and sports programs for K to 12 students, that support the goals laid out in the student learning plan, can be subsidized. Parents or students however, cannot be directly reimbursed for expenditures other than a portion of internet connection costs. All expenditures must be approved by the coordinator who will arrange for the vendor to be paid directly. Religious materials cannot be purchased with program resource funds.