



Nisga'a Secondary School

Learning Improvement Plan 2026-27

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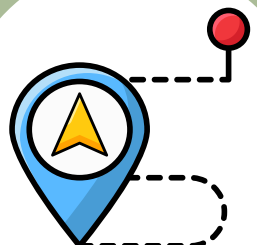


SCHOOL VISION, MISSION and VALUES



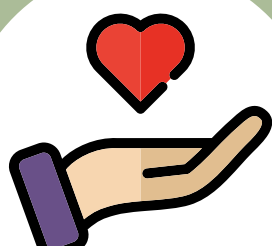
VISION

Nisga’a Secondary School is a vibrant learning community where curiosity, collaboration, compassion, and wonder inspire every learner. Students will grow with purpose by understanding their roots, setting meaningful goals, and engaging in thoughtful reflection that deepens learning and strengthens relationships.



MISSION

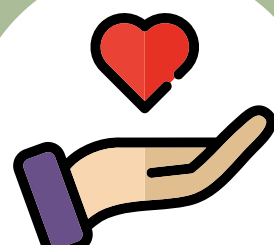
At Nisga’a Secondary School, we honour the unique strengths each learner brings. Through daily commitment to growth, we build deep connections to self, to one another, and to the natural and cultural environments around us. We nurture confident, curious learners by encouraging exploration, reflection, and wonder across all areas of learning.



VALUES

CONNECTION

We are deeply connected—to ourselves, to one another, and to our community. Through family meetings and shared activities, we nurture these bonds and cultivate a stronger sense of belonging and mutual understanding.



VALUES

CURIOSITY

Our curiosity fuels our learning. We engage in thoughtful discussions and pursue independent inquiry, deepening our understanding and inspiring one another to explore new ideas.

Learners and Community Context

Nisga’a Secondary School proudly welcomes 176 students from each of the four Nisga’a Villages: Gingolx, Lax ǵalts’ap, Gitwinksihlkw, and Gitlaxt’aamiks. Our dedicated team includes 13 teachers, 2 support staff, including 2 learner support teachers, 1 administrative assistant, a vice principal and principal, all working together to create a safe, inclusive, and culturally grounded learning environment.

A powerful symbol of unity and identity stands at the heart of our school: on **November 1, 1977**, the **Pts’aan’im Sayt K’il’im Goothl K’alii Aks** was raised in front of our building. This was the **first pole carved and raised in over 100 years**, and it holds deep significance for our community. The pole features the **four Nisga’a crests and sub-crests**, along with symbolic representations of the **Gitginsaa, Tx eemsim, and the Rainbow Man**, connecting every Nisga’a person and child to the school..

Nisga’a Secondary offers a wide range of learning opportunities. Students participate in extracurricular sports, shop and band classes, experiential and land-based learning, and Nisga’a language and culture programs. These offerings reflect the school’s commitment to holistic education rooted in Nisga’a values, traditions, and identity.

What We Know

Strengths and Accomplishments



- 1. Building Connection and Belonging**
 - A **welcoming environment** that encourages laughter, joy, and mutual respect among students, staff, and visitors.
 - **Strong relationships** across all roles — students, teachers, support staff, and leadership — built on trust and shared purpose.
 - **Family meetings** that create space for open communication between students, teachers, and the principal, strengthening school-wide understanding and connection.
 - **Inclusive school spirit activities** that bring everyone together, celebrating identity, culture, and community through fun and participation.
- 2. Commitment to Follow-Through**
 - A shared understanding of our responsibilities and a collective commitment to act.
 - Staff and students demonstrate accountability and care in daily interactions and long-term goals.
- 3. Acknowledging and Celebrating Success**
 - **Students** are recognized through awards, events, and celebrations of learning.
 - **Staff** contributions are acknowledged and appreciated.
 - **Community connections** are honored through inclusive events and cultural gatherings.
 - **Learning Feast** and **Spirit Weeks** invite joyful participation from all.
 - **Teacher-led “secret days”** spark fun and surprise, strengthening school spirit.
 - **Laughter and connection** are woven into the fabric of our school culture.

Challenges To Overcome



- 1. Engagement for All Learners**
 - **Attendance:** Ensuring that all students feel welcomed, motivated, and supported to attend school regularly.
 - **Belonging:** Creating a school culture where every learner feels connected and valued.
- 2. Effective and Timely Communication**
 - Strengthening communication across all levels:
 - **Staff collaboration and coordination**
 - **School-wide updates and transparency**
 - **Parent and caregiver engagement**
 - **Clear and consistent communication with the district**
- 3. Shared Responsibility**
 - Building a culture of collaboration where all staff contribute to:
 - **Planning and hosting school events**
 - **Daily operations and student support**
 - **Celebrations of learning and cultural milestones**

With Purpose & Intention

Leading For Learning

Leadership begins with clarity of purpose. By aligning school-level planning with the district's strategic vision, leaders ensure that every decision, initiative, and learning experience is rooted in shared values and community commitments. This coherence strengthens trust, empowers staff, and keeps learners at the heart of every action.

Planning For Impact

School impact plans are not simply accountability or operational tools, they are roadmaps for transformation. When grounded in the district's strategic priorities, these plans become vehicles for equity, cultural integrity, and learner success. They help schools move from intention to measurable outcomes, ensuring that efforts are focused, inclusive, and responsive to local context.

Building A Culture Of Learning

Strategic alignment fosters a culture where learning is continuous for learners, educators, and leaders. It encourages reflection, collaboration, and innovation, while honoring the wisdom of the Nisga'a Peoples. By leading for learning and planning for impact, school teams contribute to a district-wide movement that grows every learner in mind, heart, body, and spirit.



Learning Priority One

Goal Culture and Language

Nisga'a Secondary School will increase the daily use and visibility of Nisga'a language across all classrooms, school communications, and events. Students and staff will actively learn and apply Nisga'a vocabulary to strengthen cultural identity, promote language revitalization, and create a school environment where the language is spoken, understood, and celebrated.

Rationale

By surrounding ourselves with Nisga'a language and culture, we cultivate a learning environment rooted in Nisga'a ways of knowing, understanding, and experiencing. This nurtures the mind, body, and spirit allowing us to live into the values and wisdom of our ancestors.

Targets

By June 2027:

- Nisga'a language will be used in daily announcements at least four times per week, led by students and staff.
- All classrooms will display Nisga'a vocabulary relevant to their subject area, with updates made monthly.
- Nisga'a numbers and days of the week will be consistently used in the school's rotation schedule.
- At least 90 percent of teachers will include Nisga'a language in their weekly planners and lesson plans.
- Formal Nisga'a Language instruction will be offered in Grade 8 through 12, with at least 80 percent student participation.
- Nisga'a words and meanings will be featured in weekly school communications sent to families and staff.

Measuring Our Success

- A school-developed tool will track written and spoken use of Nisga'a language in classrooms, communications, and events.
- Observational feedback from students, staff, visitors, and community members will inform ongoing language practices.
- Student and staff surveys will reflect increased confidence, pride, and engagement in using Nisga'a language.

Key Strategies & Actions



Student Leadership

Students will deliver announcements and messages in Nisga'a, both spoken and written, to normalize and celebrate language use across the school.



Culturally Grounded Communication

The school will consistently incorporate Nisga'a language in newsletters, updates, phone calls, and school-wide announcements to promote cultural pride and language revitalization.



Language Learning Feast

Students will lead a year-end celebration that showcases their Nisga'a language learning, supported by teachers, families, and community members. The feast will honour growth, culture, and connection.



Learning Priority Two

Goal Empowered and Inspired Learners

Nisga'a Secondary School will improve Science 8, 9, and 10 achievement by infusing scientific inquiry, ecological literacy, and environmental stewardship with Nisga'a history, stories, and *Han'iigwilal'hl sa*. This work will strengthen student engagement, improve course completion rates, and build confidence in both science and Nisga'a ways of knowing and being. Through intentional instruction and culturally responsive practices, every learner will be supported to see themselves as capable and empowered.

Rationale

Scientific inquiry is a foundational skill that empowers students to observe, question, investigate, and understand the world around them. At Nisga'a Secondary, fostering scientific thinking is a shared responsibility across all staff. By integrating observation, experimentation, evidence-based reasoning, and environmental stewardship into diverse learning contexts, including traditional Nisga'a harvesting practices, land-based learning, and the study of natural systems, we make science relevant, accessible, and meaningful for all students.

Targets

- **80% of students in Grades 8 to 12 will demonstrate measurable growth in scientific inquiry skills**, including observation, questioning, investigation, data collection, analysis, and evidence-based reasoning, as measured through classroom assessments, performance tasks, and district benchmarks.
- **Science 8, 9, and 10 course completion rates will increase by 10%** compared to the 2024-2025 school year, with a focus on student engagement through land-based learning and the integration of Nisga'a knowledge, history, and stories.
- **Student self-reported confidence in science and scientific inquiry will improve by 15%**, as measured through annual surveys, with students demonstrating increased confidence in both Western science and Nisga'a ways of knowing and being.

Measuring Our Success

- **80% of students in Grades 8 to 12 will demonstrate measurable growth in scientific inquiry skills**, including observation, questioning, investigation, data collection, analysis, and evidence-based reasoning, as measured through classroom assessments, performance tasks, and district benchmarks.
- **Science 8, 9, and 10 course completion rates will increase by 10%** compared to the 2024-2025 school year, with a focus on student engagement through land-based learning and the integration of Nisga'a knowledge, history, and stories.
- **Student self-reported confidence in science and scientific inquiry will improve by 15%**, as measured through annual surveys, with students demonstrating increased confidence in both Western science and Nisga'a ways of knowing and being.
- **All teachers will participate in at least one professional learning opportunity focused on scientific inquiry, place-based and land-based learning, and culturally responsive science instruction that integrates Nisga'a knowledge systems.**

Key Strategies & Actions

- **Year-Long Science Mentorship and Professional Learning**
 - Teachers will engage in an ongoing cycle of professional learning that includes monthly Science PLC meetings, regular in-class coaching, collaborative planning, co-teaching, and individualized support from a science mentor throughout the school year.
 - This sustained approach will build teacher confidence and capacity in scientific inquiry, culturally responsive pedagogy, and the integration of Nisga'a knowledge, stories, and *Han'iigwilal'hl sa*.
- **Student Voice and Feedback**
 - Student surveys and focus groups will be conducted twice per year to gather insights on student confidence, engagement, scientific identity, and experiences in science learning.
 - Feedback will be used to inform instructional practices and support continuous improvement.
- **Community and Elder Engagement**
 - Nisga'a Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members will be invited to share traditional ecological knowledge, cultural teachings, and local environmental perspectives..
- **Land-Based and Experiential Learning**
 - Students will participate in hands-on, land-based learning experiences that connect scientific concepts with local ecosystems, environmental stewardship, and traditional Nisga'a practices.
 - Learning opportunities will emphasize observation, inquiry, and active engagement with the natural world.
- **Science Skills Monitoring and Assessment**
 - Teachers will use common formative assessments, inquiry tasks, and performance-based learning experiences to monitor growth in scientific skills.
 - Assessment will focus on observation, questioning, investigation, data collection, analysis, communication, and evidence-based reasoning.



Learning Priority Three

Goal Attendance – Connection

Nisga’a Secondary School will increase student attendance by fostering a school culture grounded in *Han’iigwilal’hl sa*, where students experience meaningful relationships, cultural identity, engaging learning, and a strong sense of belonging. Through culturally responsive, land-based, and student-centered learning experiences, students will recognize the value of attending school as a place where they are connected to community, culture, and future opportunities.

Rationale

Attendance is not simply about being present. Students attend when they feel connected, valued, supported, and engaged in meaningful learning. When students see themselves reflected in their learning, build positive relationships with peers and adults, and experience success through culture, language, science, and experiential learning, attendance becomes a natural outcome of belonging. Grounded in *Han’iigwilal’hl sa*, this priority recognizes that connection to self, family, community, land, and culture strengthens student well-being and engagement. By creating environments where every learner feels welcomed, known, and supported, Nisga’a Secondary School will improve attendance while advancing student success, identity, and empowerment.

Targets

By June 2027:

- School-wide attendance will improve by 5%.
- Chronic absenteeism will decrease by 10%.
- Student surveys will demonstrate a 15% increase in students reporting a sense of belonging and connection to school.
- At least 80% of students will participate in one or more cultural, leadership, land-based, service, or extracurricular opportunities throughout the year.
- Student participation in school activities and learning celebrations will increase by 15%.
- Families will report increased communication and engagement with the school through annual feedback opportunities.

Measuring Our Success

- Improved attendance data.
- Reduction in chronic absenteeism.
- Student survey results showing increased belonging, connection, and engagement.
- Increased participation in land-based learning, cultural activities, leadership opportunities, and extracurricular events.
- Increased family participation and feedback.
- Improved course completion rates and graduation pathway progress.

Key Strategies & Actions



Connection to Culture and Identity

Students will engage with Nisga’a language, culture, and *Han’iigwilal’hl sa* through land-based learning, community involvement, and meaningful cultural experiences that foster belonging.



Connection to Learning & Future Pathways

Students will participate in engaging learning experiences, goal-setting, leadership opportunities, and pathway planning that increase motivation, confidence, and school participation.



Connection to People & Community

Staff, families, Elders, and community partners will work collaboratively to build supportive relationships and remove barriers that impact attendance and engagement.



Through *Han'iigwilal'hl sa*, students strengthen their identity, connect learning to culture and community, engage in scientific inquiry and stewardship, and graduate as confident, empowered contributors to the Nisga'a Nation and beyond.

Summary

Alignment of Learner Profiles with Strategic Pillars

1. Cultural Integrity

We honour and embed Nisga'a language, teachings, stories, and worldview in all aspects of learning, ensuring students develop a strong sense of identity, belonging, and responsibility to community, land, and future generations.

2. Empowerment

We support each learner to recognize their strengths, set meaningful goals, and make informed decisions about their Graduation Pathway, graduating with confidence, purpose, curiosity, and opportunity.

3. Connection

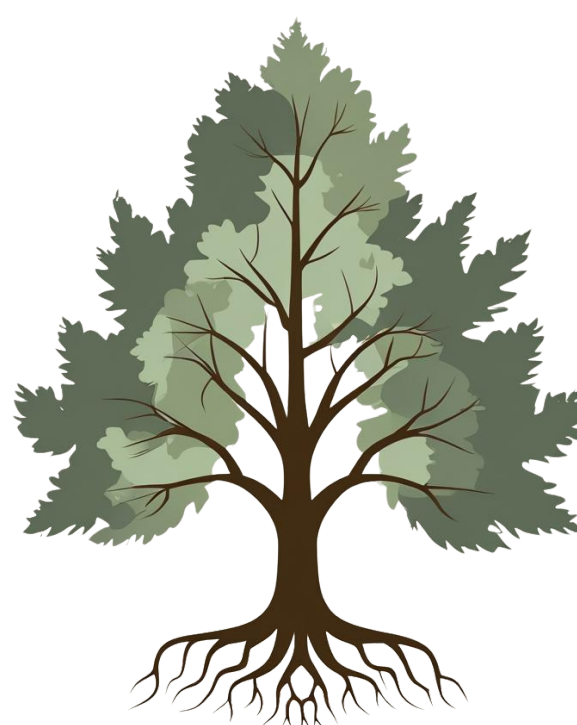
Through *Han'iigwilal'hl sa*, we nurture relationships among students, staff, families, Elders, and communities, strengthening belonging, engagement, attendance, and collective responsibility across the four Nisga'a villages and the broader Nisga'a Nation.

4. Experiential Learning

Through hands-on, place-based, land-based, and inquiry-driven experiences, students connect Nisga'a ways of knowing with scientific understanding, developing skills, stewardship, and meaningful connections between learning and life.

5. Growth Across the Grades

- **Grade 8:** Building identity, belonging, relationships, and community.
- **Grade 9:** Exploring culture, pathways, and experiential learning opportunities.
- **Grade 10:** Strengthening learner agency through informed decision-making, inquiry, and graduation planning.
- **Grade 11:** Engaging in leadership, mentorship, career exploration, and real-world learning experiences.
- **Grade 12:** Completing graduation requirements with confidence, purpose, options, opportunity, and a commitment to lifelong learning.



Rooted in Culture.
Grounded In Community.
Growing Every Learner.