



Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School

Learning Improvement Plan 2026-27

Table of Contents

Mission, Vision and Values	01
Learners and Community Context	02
With Purpose & Intention	03
Learning Priority One	04
Learning Priority Two	05
Learning Priority Three	06
Summary	07



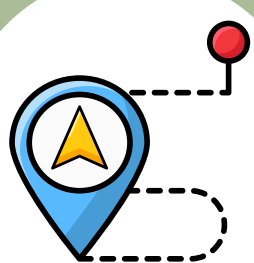


SCHOOL VISION, MISSION and VALUES



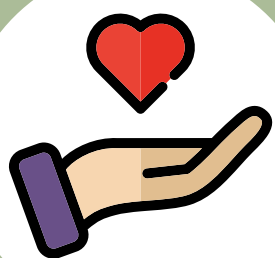
VISION

We will become a school where we meet every learner where they are and guide them toward growth, academically, socially, and emotionally; to ensure they thrive with confidence and a strong sense of belonging.



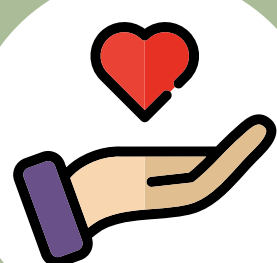
MISSION

At GES, we commit to creating a safe, inclusive, and inspiring environment where every learner is known, supported, and challenged. Through meaningful relationships and engaging learning experiences, we nurture curiosity, compassion, and capability in all students as they grow into contributing members of their community.



VALUES

We honour relationships with students, families, Elders, community, land, language, and culture. Through collaboration and shared learning experiences, we create a strong sense of belonging and support for all learners.



VALUES

We value our strong **connection** with the Gitwinksihlkw community, where local voices, culture, and traditions are honored and reflected in learning. This partnership helps students grow in identity and responsibility, deepening their understanding of their role in community life.

Learners and Community Context

Gitwinksihlkw is one of four Nisg a'a villages located in the Nass River Valley . With a population of approximately 200, the community is shaped by its volcanic landscape and rich cultural heritage, the community is deeply connected to the land and its traditions.

Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School serves 18 students in a small, supportive learning environment. The school is staffed by two classroom teachers, two education assistants, shared district specialists, and school leadership. Students learn in multi-age groupings, with Kindergarten to Grade 3 and Grades 4 to 7 combined. This structure encourages collaboration, peer mentorship, and strong relationships across grade levels.

Learners participate weekly in Nisg a'a Language and Culture classes and engage in both classroom-based and land-based learning experiences. The school promotes student well-being through a daily breakfast program and a focus on social-emotional development.

As a central part of the Gitwinksihlkw community, the school fosters learning that values cultural identity, community connection, and holistic growth alongside academic achievement.

What We Know

Strengths and Accomplishments



Over the past year, the school continued to strengthen culturally responsive learning opportunities and foster meaningful connections between students, school, and community. Students participated in Language and Culture classes, Hoobiye celebrations, Cultural Sharing Day, Elders Tea, and the annual Learning Feast.

Land-based and experiential learning remained a significant strength. Students engaged in activities such as fishing, cedar hat weaving, drum making, woodworking, carving, and metalworking, helping to build practical skills, cultural knowledge, and pride in identity.

The school also continued to focus on student well-being, relationship building, and creating a safe and welcoming environment that supports learner success. Staff collaboration and strong community involvement contributed positively to student engagement and learning experiences. throughout the year

Challenges To Overcome



The school continues to work toward improving student attendance, consistent engagement in learning, and academic achievement across grade levels. Supporting diverse learning needs and maintaining regular attendance remain ongoing priorities.

Additional challenges include ensuring students have consistent opportunities to build literacy and numeracy skills while balancing academic learning with culturally responsive and experiential programming. The school will continue strengthening family partnerships and student supports to help learners experience success both academically and socially-emotionally.

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

To strengthen student connection to Nisga'a language, culture, and identity through meaningful cultural learning experiences and community partnerships.

Rationale

Students are more engaged and successful when learning reflects their culture, community, and identity. Strengthening cultural understanding and connection supports student well-being, belonging, confidence, and pride.

Target

85% of students will demonstrate growth in their knowledge and use of Nisga'a language.
80% of students will demonstrate increased understanding of Nisga'a culture, history, and traditions.

85% of students will report a stronger sense of cultural identity and belonging.

100% of students will participate in at least four meaningful cultural learning experiences involving Elders, Knowledge Keepers, or community partners.

90% of students will be able to explain how cultural learning experiences have strengthened their connection to Nisga'a culture and community.

Measuring Our Success

- learning portfolios showing increased use of Nisga'a words.
- classroom assessments demonstrating cultural knowledge and understanding.
- Student reflections showing growth in cultural connection and identity.
- Participation records, event logs, classroom documentation.
- Portfolio evidence demonstrating personal connections and confidence in sharing their learning.

Key Strategies & Actions



Formative Assessments

Use formative assessment to help students reflect on their learning and track progress



Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Co-develop experiences with Elders that embed Nisga'a cultural teachings into outdoor, seasonal, and place-based learning. Strengthen partnerships with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, families, and community members through cultural events and shared learning experiences.



Community Engagement

Strengthen family and community connections through cultural events, communication, and shared learning experiences. Expand experiential and land-based learning opportunities such as fishing, cedar weaving, drum making, carving, woodworking, and metalworking



Student Leadership

Strengthen family and community connections through cultural events, communication, and shared learning experiences



Learning Priority Two

Goal Empowered and Inspired Learners

To develop future-ready literacy and numeracy competencies by ensuring every student is engaged in meaningful, inclusive, and empowering learning pathways.

Rationale

Literacy and writing are foundational skills that empower students to access knowledge, express ideas, and engage critically with the world. Strong reading and writing abilities enhance academic performance across all subjects and foster lifelong learning. By focusing on both reading and writing, we ensure students are not only decoding text but also creating and communicating effectively

Targets

By June 2027:

- 80% of students will demonstrate measurable growth in literacy skills, with a minimum 20% increase in overall literacy benchmark results across the school.
- 100% of kindergarten students will demonstrate mastery of foundational literacy skills, including letter recognition and alphabet knowledge.
- 80% of students in Grades 1-7 will demonstrate at least four levels of growth in reading proficiency from their baseline assessment.
- 80% of students will demonstrate growth in written communication skills through school-wide writing assessments.
- 80% of students in Grades 1-7 will demonstrate measurable growth in numeracy, resulting in a minimum 30% increase in overall SNAP assessment results and a 40% reduction in the number of students performing below grade level.

Measuring Our Success

- Literacy benchmark assessments, reading records, and classroom-based literacy data.
- Kindergarten literacy assessments and teacher observations.
- Reading benchmark assessments and progress-monitoring data.
- Writing samples scored using common school-wide rubrics collected throughout the year.
- SNAP assessment data, classroom-based numeracy assessments, intervention tracking, and progress-monitoring records.

Key Strategies & Actions

Targeted Support & Direct Instruction



Use small-group and one-on-one instruction focused on phonemic awareness, decoding, fluency, comprehension, and structured writing strategies (e.g., sentence construction, paragraph development, and genre writing). Professional Development for Educators. Provide training on evidence-based literacy and writing practices, including guided reading, writing workshops, and formative assessment strategies to support differentiated instruction.

Formative Assessment



Teachers will use SNAP data to identify learning gaps, provide targeted interventions, and implement effective numeracy strategies through ongoing professional learning and collaboration. Using formative assessment, clear learning intentions, and multiple ways for students to engage with and demonstrate learning, teachers will support student ownership, conceptual understanding, and success in mathematics.



Learning Priority Three

Goal Improved Learner Attendance

To strengthen family and community partnerships as a key in improving attendance outcomes.

Rationale

Strong family and community partnerships are essential for improving student attendance and engagement. When families and community members view the school as a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable place for both children and adults, they develop a stronger sense of belonging and connection to the school community. This fosters trust, communication, and collaboration between home and school, enabling families and educators to work together to address barriers to attendance. At the same time, teachers provide engaging learning experiences through hands-on activities, games, technology integration, STEM challenges, and land-based learning opportunities that build student confidence, support mastery of learning, and increase intrinsic motivation. When students feel connected, successful, and excited about learning, they are more likely to attend school regularly and actively participate in their education, leading to improved attendance, well-being, and academic success.

Targets

- By June 2027,
- Overall student attendance will improve by 10%, with a particular focus on students identified as chronically absent.
 - 85% of students will report feeling connected, welcomed, and valued at school.
 - 90% of students will participate in school, family, and community learning events designed to foster engagement, curiosity, and belonging.
 - 85% of students will demonstrate increased engagement in learning as evidenced by regular attendance, participation in classroom activities, and positive learning behaviours.
 - 80% of students will identify at least one meaningful connection with a family member, community member, Elder, or staff member that supports their success at school.

Measuring Our Success

- Monthly attendance data, attendance tracking reports, and comparison of baseline and end-of-year attendance rates.
- Fall and spring student voice surveys, classroom check-ins, and school connectedness data. Participation records, event attendance logs, and student reflections.
- Teacher observations, classroom engagement data, student self-assessments, and attendance records.
- Student surveys, interviews, reflections, and belonging/connectedness assessments.

Key Strategies & Actions

Targeted Support & Partnerships



Partner with the Gitwinksihlkw Village Government and community organizations to promote school events and encourage family involvement in learning. Strengthen home-school relationships through Parent-Teacher Nights and Meet Your Child's Teacher events. Host engaging family events, such as Family Fun Nights with games, movies, learning activities, and refreshments. Organize community-building and fundraising activities, including Family Bingo Nights, to foster positive connections among the school, families, and community. Increase opportunities for parents, Elders, and community members to participate in school activities, cultural learning experiences, and celebrations of student success.

Improved Instruction – Culturally Responsive Curriculum



- Create engaging learning experiences for students through technology integration, hands-on learning, land-based education, and STEM activities that encourage regular attendance and participation.
- Regularly celebrate and communicate student achievements, attendance successes, and school events through newsletters, social media, community announcements, and school assemblies.

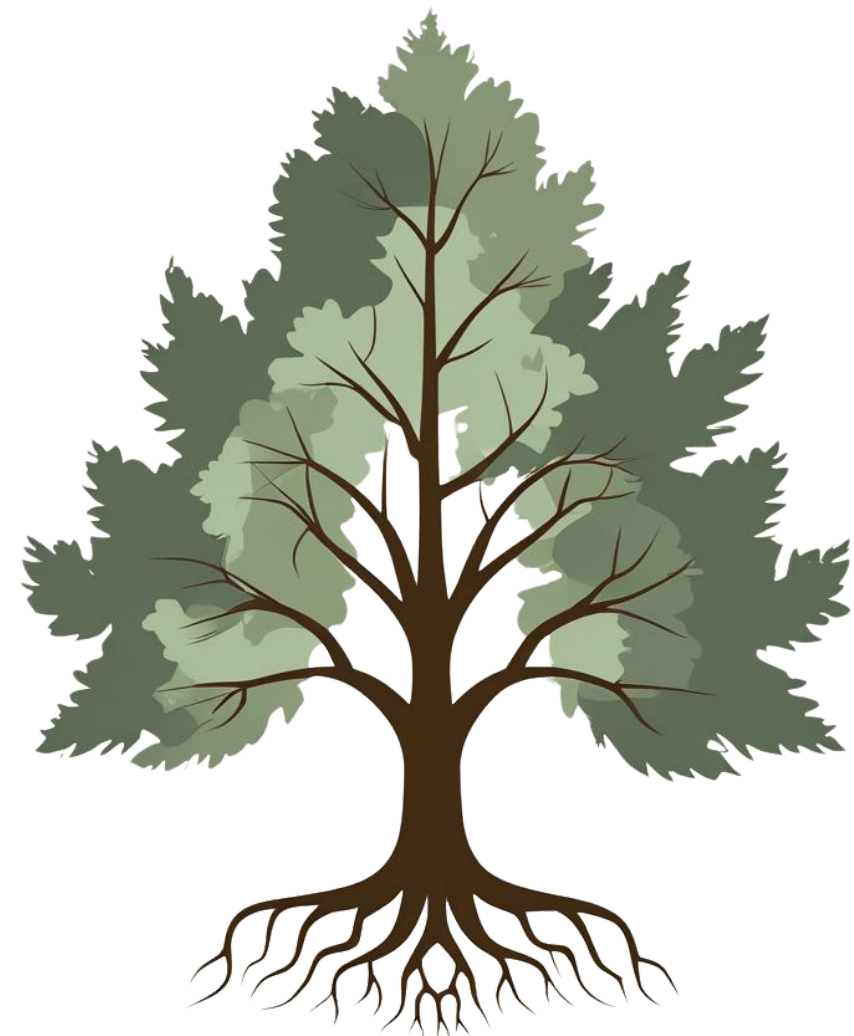




Summary

This Learning Impact Plan reflects the school’s ongoing commitment to student success, well-being, and cultural connection. The plan aligns with NSD 92 district priorities by emphasizing culturally responsive learning, strong relationships, student engagement, and community partnerships.

Through continued Language and Culture programming, experiential learning opportunities, and a focus on empowering learners, the school aims to create meaningful educational experiences that support the growth of the whole child academically, socially, emotionally, and culturally.



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