

North Vancouver School District
SCHOOL PLAN
2009-2010

School: North Vancouver Distributed Learning School **Principal:** Laurie Martin
Address: 2132 Hamilton Avenue
North Vancouver, BC V7P 2M3
Phone: 604-903-3333

School/Community Context:

The North Vancouver Distributed Learning School has been operating for the last two years and serves students who are seeking to take classes in both the online and blended online environment at the grade 10-12 level. Currently 22 courses are offered in a variety of subject areas. The school has a diversity of learners including high school age students, adults, and ESL students. The school is beginning to network with other DL schools in order to share resources and establish best practices.

Because students enrolled are typically only taking one course and/or are adult learners it has not yet been possible to establish a Parent Advisory Council.

Demographics:

Total number of students: 806
Male: 353 Female: 453

Number of students per grade									
Grade	ADK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
English	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fr. Imm.		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Grade	8	9	10	11	12	Adults
English	0		223	104	317	162
Fr. Imm.	0					

# FTE Teachers & Administrators	% Aboriginal Students	% Special Needs Students	% International Students	% Youth ESL	% Adult ESL
3.645	1.5%	12%		10 %	30%

Progress Analysis:

Review of School Goals – Previous Year

1. To create a Parent Advisory Council:

This goal has not been feasible, as many of our students are taking only one or two courses, are cross-enrolled in other schools and the DL school is not the home school, or are adult learners. Since online courses are offered as continuous enrollment, many students are not consistently in the school over the course of a regular 10 month school year. These issues make the possibility of creating and maintaining a PAC difficult.

2. To increase the number of course offerings:

This goal has been met. In the first year of the NVDL School, 5 courses were offered. Currently 22 are being offered in a variety of subject areas.

3. To determine completion rates: Last year the DL School offered a limited number of courses.

Completion rates 08/09

PE 10	92%
Social Studies 11	27%
Math 10	38%
Math 11	38%
Math 12	42%
Average completion rate	47%

Opportunities for Further Development:

Distributed Learning continues to be a rapidly growing area of the education landscape in British Columbia. The NVDL School is facing many challenges including creating locally developed courses to meet the needs of our diverse student population, on-going teacher professional development in distance learning teaching strategies and techniques, and ways to provide students with the convenient, effective, and engaging online experiences. These challenges will continue over the next several years while our staff and administration develop best practices to meet the needs of our online student population. Another area of development is the creation of an operational DL centre, where students will have the ability to access DL teachers for tutoring and support and be provided a location to write District developed online and pen and paper tests and exams under direct DL teacher supervision at various times during the day and evening.

School Goals:

Based on the review of student achievement using Provincial, District and school evidence, the goals set out in the North Vancouver Distributed Learning School Plan for 2009—2010 are:

1. **To increase the number of DL students activated in courses**
2. **To improve student engagement in DL learning experiences**
3. **To improve student completion in DL courses**

School Goal 1:

To increase the number of DL students activated in courses

Goal Rationale:

Activation procedures need to be consistent for each course in order to facilitate records management, get students engaged and working in the course, and receive Ministry funding for each student. Activation is defined as the completion of a substantive assignment that is directly linked to Ministry prescribed learning outcomes for the specific course..

Objective 1.1:

To increase students' understanding of the steps required for activation

Strategies/Structures:

- Develop a clear set of steps to facilitate student activation in all courses
 - Create an activation assignment for each course via the DL website and have students submit this with their registration package
 - Clearly communicate the activation steps to all teachers and to all students on the DL website

Evidence: *(Quantitative)*

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Actual	Target
Number of students activated in each course	No data	No data	100%

School Goal 2:

To improve student engagement in DL learning experiences

Goal Rationale:

Students need to be engaged in the online learning environment. Modification of current courses and future development of locally created courses will meet student needs by providing more user-friendly and engaging learning experiences that utilize the capabilities of the Internet. Quality courses that clearly cover Ministry outcomes and are challenging, engaging, relevant and easy to use will assist students to remain active in their courses. Currently, many students are finding that some of the courses offered have extraneous content, are difficult to navigate, and do not provide engaging and interactive learning experiences that can be provided in an online environment

Objective 2.1:

To increase the number of students actively engaged and working consistently in online courses

Strategies/Structures:

- Increase the number of online technology tools incorporated in the course: Elluminate, webcasts, wikis, blogs, website creation etc. to make the courses more interactive and engaging.
- Fully utilize the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) tools in the courses (chat, discussion, online assessments etc.)
- Modify assignments and assessments (formative and summative) to make them relevant and authentic for students
- Provide collaborative time for teachers to work together to re-structure and streamline current course materials to create more effective learning experiences for students
- Collaborate with other DL schools and online associations (BC Learning Network) to share courses and course materials that engage students

Evidence: *(Quantitative)*

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Actual	Target
Percentage of students submitting a minimum of 1 assignment every two weeks	No data	No data	70%

Objective 2.2:

To increase student engagement and choices through the development of locally created courses

Strategies/Structures:

- Support teachers to participate in professional development to assist in course creation both in the district through Collegial Conferencing and out of district (e.g. Virtual School Society Conference)
- Provide training sessions for teachers to learn Moodle and explore and use web tools (Elluminate, wikis, blogs, social networking systems etc.) in the creation of courses
- Encourage DL teachers to add their own course content and activities to existing courses based on student needs
- Develop elective course uniquely created for the students in North Vancouver

Evidence: (Quantitative)

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Actual	Target
Number of courses used that are locally developed	No data	No data	1 course per year

Evidence: (Qualitative)

Student and teacher interest and engagement in the courses as evidenced by end of course student surveys and discussions with teachers.

School Goal 3:

To improve student completion in DL courses

Goal Rationale:

Improving student completion rates will provide evidence that our courses are meeting the needs of students and allowing them to reach their academic goals. Students need to be “activated” in the course, “actively” work in the course, and ultimately complete the course. Research has suggested that completion rates in online courses are linked to effective relationships between students and teachers. These relationships must include active communication and meaningful, timely feedback on assignments.

Objective 3.1:

To increase the number of students completing courses

Strategies/Structures:

- Use face to face meetings, telephone calls, e-mail, wikis, blogs, Elluminate sessions, and in course chat rooms to enhance communicate between teacher and students
- Create an interactive and social learning environment between students through the use of social networking tools both in the course and on the Internet
- Use a balance of formative and summative assessment (rubrics) in order to allow students to practice and learn skills with effective teacher feedback before the marks are given
- Mark assignments in a timely fashion so that students will be encouraged to complete the course

Evidence: (Quantitative)

Key Performance Measure:	Baseline	Actual	Target
Percentage of students completing courses	47%	No data	80%

Evidence: (Qualitative)

Increased sense of engagement and positive relationships leading to course completion based on both teacher and student feedback on the DL satisfaction survey

Connections:

Connections to Family of School's School Plans and/or District Achievement Plan:

Distributed Learning is not directly associated with a Family of Schools, but we serve students in the entire North Vancouver School District. The majority of our students are cross-enrolled in other North Vancouver secondary schools or are part of our adult learner population at Continuing Education. A small number of our students are out of district. The NVDL School has clear links to the North Vancouver District Achievement Plan:

Providing for the Diverse Needs of Students:

By providing an alternative means of completing courses required for Graduation, we are servicing individuals who, due to specific circumstances, are not able to complete their high school courses through a traditional, mainstream school environment. This includes students with physical, emotional, or behavioural issues or students who learn more effectively in a flexible, independent, and self-paced environment. We provide opportunities for students to learn any time and any place and we accommodate for diverse schedules and for individuals who are working while completing school.

Promoting Literacy Skills:

We provide online courses in English 10, 11, 12 and Communications 12 to allow youth, adults, and ESL students to improve their literacy skills. The promotion of these literacy skills is in keeping with the District Literacy Plan that focuses on literacy for pre-schoolers, school age children, students of aboriginal ancestry, and adult learners.

Meeting the Needs of Aboriginal Students:

The NVDL School provides courses to all students, and is connected with the Eslha7an program, where aboriginal students are encouraged to enrol in the online environment.

Creating Safe and Caring Schools:

The NVDL School is aware of the issues regarding online safety and stresses with the students the acceptable use of the Internet, the importance of submitting authentic work (avoiding plagiarism), and the appropriate use of in-course chat rooms and discussion forums.

Consultation Process of North Vancouver Distributed Learning School

- x School administrators, and Distributed Learning staff have been actively involved in the development of the School Plan.
- x A summary of the approved North Vancouver Distributed Learning School Plan will be posted on the school web site by October, 2009

School Planning Council Approval of Proposed School Plan:

Date: May 8, 2009

	Name	Signature
Principal	Laurie Martin	<i>Original Document signed by SPC Members</i>
Vice-Principal	Maureen McRae-Stanger	
DL Department Heads	Naresh Chand, Billy Lauzon	

Board Approval of School Plan:

Approved by:

Dave Pearce, Assistant Superintendent
June 15, 2009

