



UNIVERSAL WASHROOMS IN OUR SCHOOLS



We are developing welcoming and safe spaces for all students!

What are universal washrooms?

Universal washrooms are facilities designed to be accessible and welcoming to all individuals, regardless of gender, ability, or needs. They honour each individual's rights to privacy and safety.

Why are universal washrooms important in schools?

Universal washrooms promote inclusivity, accessibility, and comfort, supporting our district's commitment to equity, dignity, and student privacy and safety. They ensure that all students feel respected, included, and safe within their school environment, aligning with the [BC Human Rights Code \(Bill 27 2016\)](#) and the [Board's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity \(SOGI\) policy \(2012, r.2021\)](#).

Will gender-specific washrooms still be available?

Yes, gender-specific washrooms will remain available. The addition of universal washrooms provides a choice, ensuring that all students, staff and community members can select the facility that best suits their comfort and needs.

How are they designed for safety, privacy, & accessibility?

Universal washrooms are designed with individual, fully enclosed stalls and open sight lines into the hand washing areas to enhance safety. This layout minimizes potential vulnerabilities while maximizing privacy for all users. The design also incorporates accessible washrooms, featuring at least one fully accessible stall at each location.

How has the community been involved in this decision?

Community input is vital to our decision-making process. Opportunities for input occurs through various channels, including DPAC, the District Student Leadership Team, the District SOGI Committee (CUPE, SCTA, Parents Caregivers, Students, & Admin representatives), public budget consultations, and board meetings, reflecting a broad base of support for more inclusive facilities.

Are there any existing universal washrooms in our schools?

Yes, we have successfully implemented universal washrooms at several locations, including the Early Years Centre, West Sechelt Elementary, Elphinstone Secondary, and Gibsons Elementary. These facilities have been well-received and meet the needs of our community effectively.

How is the funding allocated?

Funding for these facilities comes from the School Enhancement Program, which is designated for infrastructure improvements and can be used to enhance inclusivity and accessibility. This funding does not impact our operating budget, and decisions about its allocation are made with transparency and community engagement.

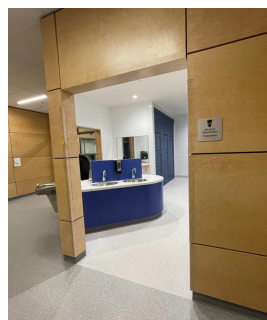
What has been the impact where they are already implemented?

In schools with universal washrooms, we've noted a decrease in problematic behaviours, such as vaping, associated with the traditional design of multi-stall washrooms. The feedback from staff and students at these sites has been overwhelmingly positive, supporting the expansion of this initiative.

How do the washrooms support menstrual dignity?

These washrooms are equipped with essential amenities, including dispensers with free menstrual products and disposal units, ensuring individuals can access necessary hygiene products. This aligns with the [Ministry's Provision of Menstrual Products \(2019\)](#) and [SD46 Regulation 3300 - Menstrual Products \(2020\)](#).

Are you interested in what the research has to say about universal washrooms? [CLICK HERE!](#)



Universal Washrooms at Gibsons Elementary (2015), Early Years Centre (2020), West Sechelt Elementary (2021), and Elphinstone Secondary (2023)