



BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Community School Elements

The nine elements of community schools are focused on creating student success, healthy families and strong, resilient communities.

Out-of-School Time Programs

Community schools provide quality, accessible programs to meet the physical, social, emotional, and academic needs of school age children and youth outside of regular school hours.

Early Learning

Community schools provide programs to address the play and learning needs of families with young children. The options may include child care, preschool, StrongStart and opportunities for infants, toddlers and preschoolers to learn together with their parent or caregiver.

Integrated Services

Community schools support and facilitate collaboration with community agencies and organizations to create partnerships for the provision of more streamlined programs and services that align with school and community needs.

Youth Connections

Community schools build and develop community support, connections and programs that encourage youth involvement, social responsibility and leadership.



Supported & Enhanced Student Learning

Community schools support and promote school goals with programs and initiatives that enhance the school curriculum through student involvement in experiential and community based learning.

Family Support Services

Community schools connect families with community based services and resources that build capacity and strengthen the health and well being of children, families and community.

Community Engagement

Community schools facilitate an open flow of communication and engagement with the broader community. The school, families and community actively work together to co-create a school and community climate that is representative of the collective vision of community assets and needs.

Community & Continuing Education

Community schools implement informal and formal learning opportunities that meet the needs of the entire community. Programs are not only offered to K-12 students but also include early learning, literacy foundations, high school completion, English language learning, adult education, and vocational and community interest classes.

Community Use of School Facilities

Community schools effectively expand the use of the school and other neighbourhood facilities for community programs and services suited to the unique and diverse needs of all members of the community. The community school is a resource and hub for the entire community.

Association for Community Education

ACEbc is dedicated to fostering and promoting Community Education and Community Schools in British Columbia.

ACEbc has been active in BC since 1975 in the areas of community education, community school development, advocacy, training, research and resource publication.

ACEbc is a non-profit organization governed by an elected Board of Directors with membership open to individuals, groups or organizations interested in Community Education.

www.acebc.ca

Elements of Community Schools in British Columbia

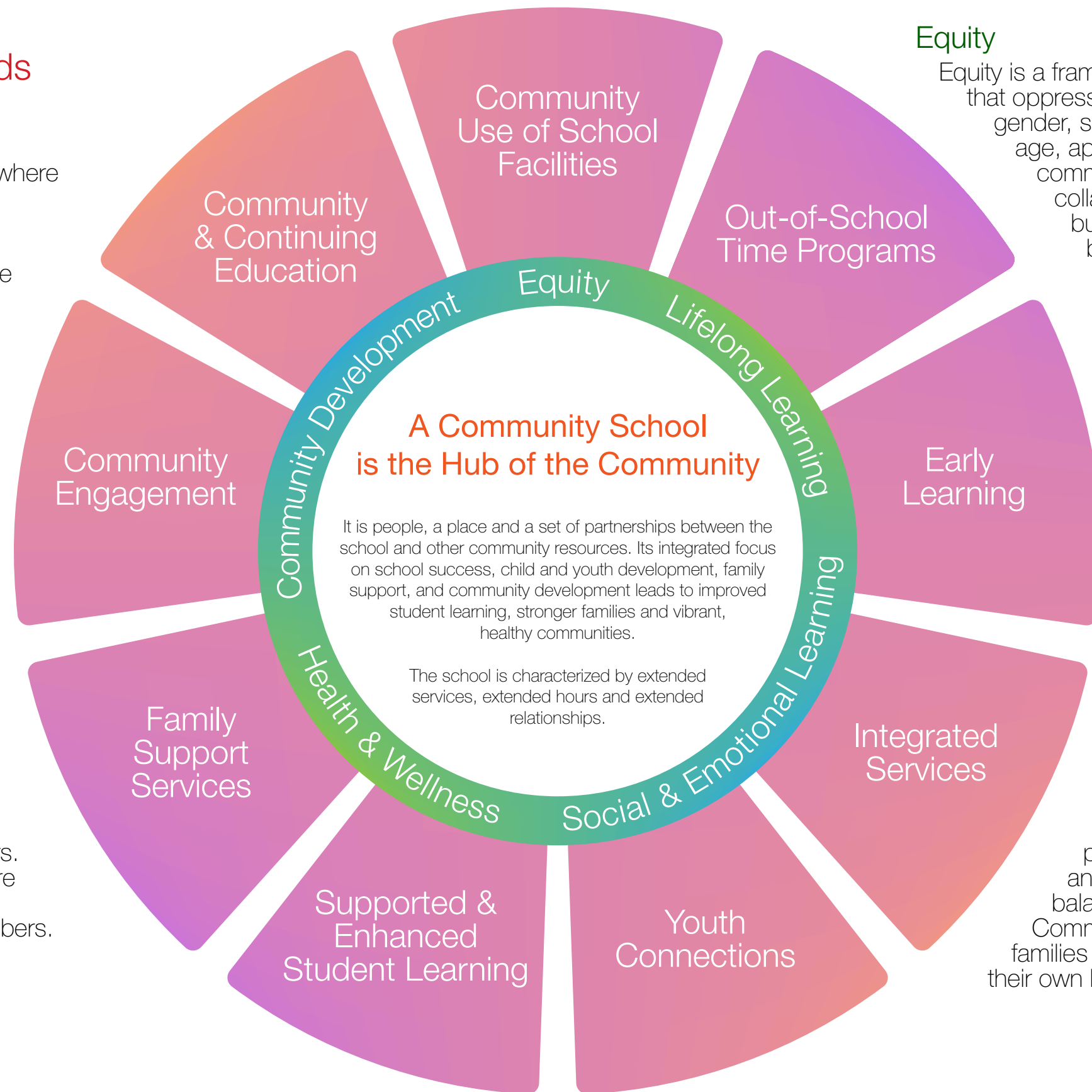
Community School Threads

Community Development

Community development is a process where community members come together to resolve community issues, develop capacity and mobilize community resources. Through a more collaborative method of planning and decision-making, the community is strengthened and community well-being is developed. Community schools help communities obtain, strengthen, and maintain the ability to set and achieve their own collective objectives.

Social & Emotional Learning

Social and emotional learning is the process through which individuals develop the skills, attitudes and values necessary to recognize and manage one's own emotions and to recognize emotions in others. It includes working well with others and forming positive relationships, identifying and solving problems, being able to feel sympathy and empathy for others, and help-seeking and help-giving behaviours. Community schools develop and nurture social and emotional capacity in their students, families and community members.



Equity

Equity is a framework for addressing systemic injustices that oppress individuals based on race, culture, gender, sexuality, abilities, socio-economic status, age, appearance and/or religion. An equitable community fosters inclusion, belonging, collaboration, shared success and capacity building among students, families, and the broader community. Community schools advance equity by breaking down systemic barriers, meeting the unique needs and strengths of individuals and families, raising awareness of inequities, and cultivating a more inclusive and caring community.

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning is all learning that is pursued throughout life with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competences. It is flexible, diverse and available at different times and in different places. Community schools create opportunities and remove barriers to learning, moving beyond the boundaries of traditional schooling.

Health & Wellness

Health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being. Wellness is a conscious, lifelong process of becoming aware of choices and making decisions towards a more balanced, healthy and fulfilling life. Community schools empower students, families and community members to pursue both their own health and the collective well-being.