

# Spotlight on the K-12 Workforce Plan

*Supporting B.C.'s rural and remote K-12 workforce*



## Learn About K-12 Workforce Initiatives Underway

New award programs and more flexible teacher education options are expanding opportunities for people to learn and work in rural and remote parts of the province. Together, these efforts are reducing barriers and supporting the recruitment and retention of teachers across the province, helping build a strong and sustainable workforce for B.C.'s schools.



## New Vancouver Island University Program

In 2026, Vancouver Island University is launching a new Dispersed Teacher Education Program (elementary level). Supported by Provincial funding to increase accessibility of teacher education, this program is designed for individuals working in rural and remote schools who want to become certified teachers. Most of the program can be taken online and students can complete practicums in their local school district/authority. The 2026 cohort is expected to include over 20 teacher candidates. Visit [VIU's website](#) for more details.



Ministry of  
Education and  
Child Care



## Northern B.C. Practicum Award

Teacher candidates can receive \$8,000 to relocate to a rural or remote school in northern B.C. to complete the final practicum placement for their teacher education program. Now in its third year, this award has supported over 60 teacher candidates to experience the benefits of teaching in rural communities.

"The Northern Practicum Award was instrumental in paving the way to explore the unknown. Without this award, the financial cost would not have been practical to try this new adventure." - Northern B.C. Practicum Award recipient

## Northern B.C. Relocation Award

Financial supports of up to \$8,000 are available to teacher candidates who live in the north and need to relocate to attend in-person coursework as part of a northern teacher education program delivered by one of these universities:

- University of British Columbia
- University of Northern British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University

This new initiative reduces barriers for students living and studying in northern B.C. by helping them move closer to university campuses. It is anticipated about 35 teacher candidates will benefit from this award by fall 2026.

## Northern B.C. Return of Service Award

Financial incentives of up to \$18,000 are available to teacher candidates who commit to working in a northern school district after graduation from their teacher education program. Four teacher candidates were selected in the first cohort. In return, each recipient has committed to teaching in a northern school for three years.

To learn more about these award programs, visit: [Join the K-12 workforce](#)

In December 2025, the Government of Canada added teachers to the list of eligible occupations for the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness program. This means teachers working in an eligible rural community could qualify for loan forgiveness of up to \$30,000 on the federal portion of their student loan. More information is available on the Canada Student Loan website.