



Report Summary

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT: TOWARD BETTER EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

CHALLENGES

As a group, children and youth in care do not do as well at school as other students.

51% of youth in continuing care graduate vs. 90% of other students.

WHAT DID WE* DO?

RCY took a close look at education supports for children and youth in care to see what is working and what is getting in the way of success at school.

HOW DID WE DO THIS?

- RCY surveyed youth in and from care and adults who work with them.
- We also gathered information from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and from other provinces and countries.

PUBLIC REPORT

On Oct. 26, 2017, RCY released a public report on what is happening at school for children and youth in care and what supports are available to help these students succeed.

The report makes six recommendations to improve education outcomes for children and youth in care.

*What is the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY)?

The Representative is not political. The Office is independent, reporting to the Legislative Assembly and not to a government ministry.

RCY supports B.C.'s young people if they have problems with government services and programs. The Representative also makes recommendations for changes to make things better for children and youth.

KEY REPORT

WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE



INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SUPPORT

- Indigenous content in classes
- Indigenous school staff
- Connection to own culture
- School Elders

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS MET

- Quick access to mental health services
- Adults who know how to respond
- Help to heal from trauma



ADULTS WHO WORK AS A TEAM

- Involve youth in planning
- Plan together for success
- Share information with each other



FOR SUCCESS
CHILDREN
IN CARE

FINDINGS: THE NEED FOR SUCCESS AT SCHOOL



STABILITY

- To live in the same place; not to be moved around
- Stay in the same school
- Support for home or school moves

POSITIVE AND CONSISTENT RELATIONSHIPS

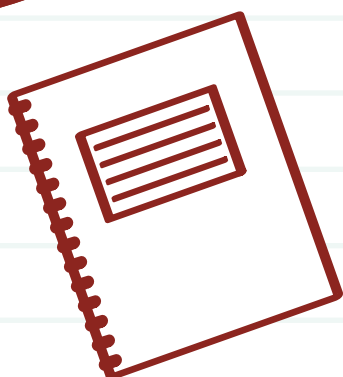
- To connect often with a caring adult at school
- School staff who understand what it is like to be in care
- Social workers and foster parents who support education
- Peer support



SUPPORT WITH SCHOOL WORK

- Flexibility
- Special needs supports
- Adults who believe youth can succeed
- To set goals
- To celebrate successes

AT SCHOOL,
AND YOUTH
NEED...



REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS*

The best possible outcome of this report would be to see children and youth in care in B.C. fully supported for school success.

Recommendation 1

The Ministry of Education should give money to each school district for schools to support the learning of students who are children and youth in care.

Recommendation 2

The Ministry of Education should make sure that all children and youth in care have high-quality support at school.

Recommendation 3

The Ministry of Education should help all Indigenous students do better in school, and take specific actions to support Indigenous children and youth in care.

Recommendation 4

The Ministry of Education, school districts and the Ministry of Children and Family Development should make sure someone in each school district is coordinating information and support for the education of children and youth in care.

Recommendation 5

The Ministry of Children and Family Development should make sure that every child or youth coming into care is assessed for the effects of trauma. Based on the results schools should provide support for recovery from trauma.

Recommendation 6

Caregivers should be able to decide whether the children and youth in their care can participate in school activities that need written permission.

*More detailed recommendations can be found in the full report at www.rcybc.ca

Phone

In Victoria: 250-356-6710
Elsewhere in B.C.: 1-800-476-3933

E-mail

rcy@rcybc.ca

Fax

Victoria: 250-356-0837
Prince George: 250-561-4624
Burnaby: 604-775-3205

Website

www.rcybc.ca

Offices

Suite 400, 1019 Wharf St.
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3Y9

1475 – 10th Avenue
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 2L2

#150 4664 Lougheed Hwy.
Burnaby, B.C.
V5C 5T5

Social Media



B.C.'s Representative
for Children and Youth
and RCYBC Youth



Rep4Youth



@rcybc and @rcybcyouth



@rcybcyouth