

There are a variety of learning options for children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) in BC. Choosing the right fit for your child typically involves discussions with your child's autism team. Some families choose alternative education options, such as:

- Distributed learning programs
- Learning centres
- Independent schools

Distributed Learning Programs:

According to the [Ministry of Education](#), “Distributed learning is when a student learns mostly at a distance from their teacher – via the Internet or a blend of some classroom instruction. It’s an approach that offers flexibility and opportunity for students to learn outside of the traditional classroom setting or schedule.”

Find a school that offers distributed learning:

- [Public school distributed learning options](#)
- [Private school distributed learning options](#)

Learning or Private Therapy Centres

Learning centres provide programs that offer life skills training, behavior intervention, and opportunities to develop social and emotional awareness, as well as an academic component. The academic portion of the program is delivered through distributed learning. Learning centres typically provide all day programming to children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and other neurological and developmental disabilities.

Autism funding may sometimes be used to pay tuition fees at a learning centre or a private therapy centre. To qualify the program must contain intervention or therapy to address symptoms of ASD, and the education portion must be delivered by a distance learning program. In these programs, tuition is generally a combination of special education funding provided by Ministry of Education and parent fees.

Independent schools:

According to the [Ministry of Education](#), “Independent schools [sometimes referred to as private schools] in B.C. provide an alternative to public school education. Their programs range from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Parents and students often choose these schools for their specific philosophical, religious or educational approach.”

Autism funding may not be used to pay tuition fees at independent schools.

Talk To Us

Have a question? Looking for further information? Our friendly and knowledgeable Information Officers provide personalized support through email, phone, and in-person.

Lower Mainland

Lindy Chau
(604) 434-0880
lchau@autismbc.ca

Stella Hui
(604) 434-0880
shui@autismbc.ca

Vancouver Island

Teresa Everitt
(250) 751-9278
teveritt@autismbc.ca

Interior BC

Lisa Watson
(250) 762-3076
lwatson@autism.ca

Northern BC

Corey Walker
(250) 961-7620
cwalker@autism.ca

Autism Society of BC

#303 – 3701 E. Hastings Street Burnaby, BC V5C 2H6
Telephone: (604) 434-0880
Toll-free: 1-888-437-0880
Fax: (604) 434-0801