

# School Connectedness Grants

## An Invitation to Learn Together



All children and youth benefit from a strong connection to their school.

*Apply Now!*

### School

#### **Connectedness**

is the belief held by students that adults and peers in the school care about their learning as well as about them as individuals.

## BC Schools Are Leading the Way

Many schools are taking action on improving schools connectedness. They have embraced the research confirming that students who feel connected to their school are more likely to have better academic achievement, including higher grades and test scores, have better school attendance, and stay in school longer. They are also less likely to engage in many risk behaviors that may impact school success.

The School Connectedness Capacity Building Initiative aims to:

- highlight some of the great work being done in BC schools and districts to enhance school connectedness, and
- provide opportunities for other school communities to learn about these promising practices and other available resources.

**Five \$5,000 grants are available for the 2014-15 school year for schools/districts working on school connectedness and demonstrating results.**

## The Opportunity

Five school communities focused on building and sustaining school connectedness will be selected to receive \$5,000 each in the 2014-15 school year. The funding is intended to support the selected school communities' efforts to tell their story.

## Reflect ♦ Document ♦ Share

They will also be provided with resources and opportunities for networking and learning.

**If your school/district is already working on school connectedness, this could be an opportunity to learn, reflect on your practice and share your knowledge with others.**

## We Want to Learn from You!

The selected schools/districts will have regular opportunities to network and learn from each other. We hope to explore questions like:

- What is the context within which your work began?
- How has your work involved families and connected to the community?
- How do you know you are making a difference?
- What tools did you use or design to support your work and assess progress?
- How have your actions promoted learners' positive wellbeing?
- Where will you be going next?

### Initiative Sponsors

This initiative is co-sponsored by [DASH BC](#) and the [BC School Centred Mental Health Coalition](#) (BCSCMH). It is guided by a steering committee that includes representatives of [BCCPAC](#), [BCSSA](#), [BCSTA](#), [BCTF](#), the research community ([CARBC](#)) and government, working together to enhance school connectedness for all BC students and their families.

## Grant Requirements

The selected school communities will:

- provide a local coordinator to attend a start-up meeting in Vancouver (date TBD) and liaise with the DASH project team;
- form an ongoing team (minimum 3), available to participate in the local discussions/ sessions (Sep 2014 to Apr/May 2015; schedule TBD locally);
- by May 2015, submit their school connectedness story and reflections in a visual format such as video, for publication on the [Healthy School BC website](http://HealthySchoolBC.ca).

*"Students who feel connected to their school are more likely to have better academic achievement, including higher grades and test scores, have better school attendance, and stay in school longer."*

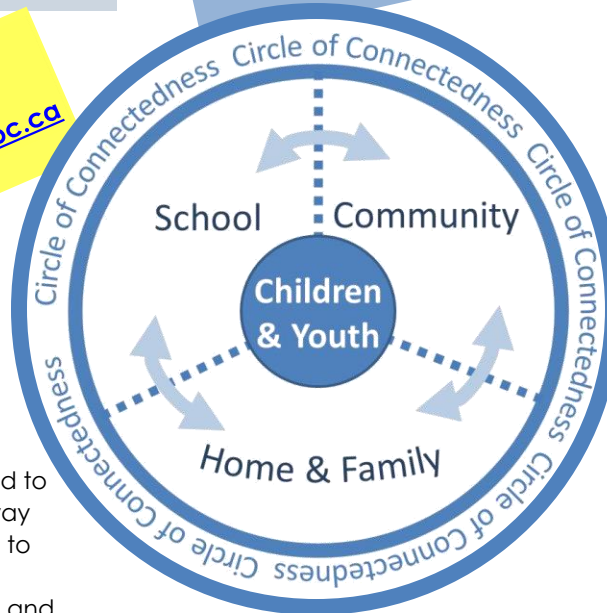
**Eligibility?**  
All K-12 schools in BC are eligible

**Questions?**  
Contact Kim at

[schoolconnectedness@dashbc.ca](mailto:schoolconnectedness@dashbc.ca)

## Inquiry Approach

Schools/districts are encouraged to use an inquiry approach as a way to reflect on their practice, and to engage the whole school community — students, parents and families, school and district staff, community members and organizations, health authorities and others — in the process.



**Reflect ♦ Document ♦ Share**



  
BC SCHOOL CENTRED  
MENTAL HEALTH  
COALITION | BCSCMHC

  
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## Networking

Schools/districts will have the opportunity to share their knowledge, strategies and actions with other schools and communities through participation in teleconference and/or online platforms, which become the foundation of a community of practice to support other school communities' participation.

Sharing stories and knowledge and reflecting on results leads to a deeper understanding of the work and supports others to join in. Thus, the grant requires that participating school communities submit their reflections in a visual format, such as video to the [Healthy Schools BC website](http://HealthySchoolsBC.ca).

## Application Deadline

The deadline for applications is 5:00 pm on Friday, May 16, 2014.

To get an application, [click here](#), or go to [www.healthyschoolsbc.ca/media/18460/school\\_connectedness\\_grant\\_application.pdf](http://www.healthyschoolsbc.ca/media/18460/school_connectedness_grant_application.pdf). The deadline for submissions is **May 16, 2014**.

To apply, send a completed School Connectedness Grant Application to Kim at [schoolconnectedness@dashbc.ca](mailto:schoolconnectedness@dashbc.ca) by 5pm Friday, May 16, 2014.

## Project Timeline

Successful applicants will be notified by June 16, 2014. Projects are expected to start early in the 2014/15 school year and be completed by May 2015.