

ALTERNATE PROGRAMS AND SCHOOLS

Background

The District has a history of providing educational choices for students. These choices include many locally developed courses and programs.

Public education must serve the needs of students who represent a broad spectrum of interests and beliefs. The District believes its role is to build capacity within the entire District to provide options for students through a variety of programs of emphasis that honour different pathways to graduation. Therefore, the District supports the provision of educational programs for students based on specialized curriculum, pedagogy or philosophy if:

- The program meets the requirements of the School Act and Regulations, and
- Instruction is consistent with Provincially Authorized or Locally Developed curriculum, and
- The program is consistent with the Graduate Profile, Core Principles, Organizational Profile, and Principles of Learning and Instruction for the District.

To ensure the underlying principles of public education and the quality of educational programming are not compromised, all locally developed courses and programs must go through a process of approval by the Board

Procedures

1. The Board will consider the establishment of alternate programs or schools when the following criteria have been met:
 - 1.1. The proposed program or school will have a statement of philosophy and objectives.
 - 1.2. The proposed program or school must be based on a demonstrated need.
 - 1.3. The proposed program or school will be open to application by any student in the District if it is a District program. If selection of students is required because of the nature of the program or limitations of space, criteria and a process will be approved as part of the program or school proposal.
 - 1.4. The proposed program or school will not be provided with special transportation assistance from the District.
 - 1.5. The proposed program or school can be accommodated in suitable facilities. The District may locate such a program in a classroom, a school within a school, a designated school, or at more than one site.
 - 1.6. The proposed program or school will be reviewed for issues of equity.
 - 1.7. Final permission for the program will be subject to Board approval of funding and a suitable location.

2. For the purpose of this Administrative Procedure, an educational program is defined as a set of individual courses and activities with a common sense of purpose. It may be a District program, accessible to all students from within the District and have no defined catchment area or it may be unique to one particular school.

Reference: Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 8.4, 8.5, 20, 22, 23, 65, 74.1, 75, 75.1, 85 School Act
Specialty Academy Criteria Regulation 219/08
Collective Agreements

Approved: August 15, 2021
Revised: