

DISTRICT PROGRAMS (Choice)

Background

District Programs (Choice), are programs to which students apply for enrolment. These programs are inclusive of:

- French Immersion
- Intensive French
- Montessori
- Mandarin Bilingual
- Mini Schools (Secondary)
- Academies (Secondary)
- Indigenous Focus

District Programs (Choice) are established by the District in response to identified students' educational interests. These District programs provide an enriched learning environment which is unique in structure, philosophy and focus.

District Programs (Choice) must be financially viable, support Ministry and Board goals for intellectual, personal, social and career development. Available and appropriate space must also be available to support operation of these programs.

Procedures

1. Criteria for Establishment of a District Program (Choice)

1.1. A District Program (Choice) approved by the Board will:

- 1.1.1. Meet all provincial policies, District policies and procedures, and collective agreements;
- 1.1.2. Be educationally sound;
- 1.1.3. Fulfill a recognized educational interest;
- 1.1.4. Have clearly stated procedures for selection of students that are inclusive of all;
- 1.1.5. Be accessible, regardless of financial means;
- 1.1.6. Be free from any religious, political or ethnic affiliation;
- 1.1.7. Be financially viable; and,
- 1.1.8. For academy proposals fulfill the criteria defined in Section 82.1 of the School Act;
- 1.1.9. Where applicable have a plan to support articulation with secondary school

programs if the program goes beyond grade 7.

- 1.2. In general, criteria for selecting students are to include the following:
 - 1.2.1. Selection will be based on a variety of sources of data,
 - 1.2.2. Academic grades will not be the sole criterion,
 - 1.2.3. Vancouver students will be accepted before out-of-District students.
- 1.3. Through examining the needs and interests across the District, Senior Management may propose District Programs (Choice). The proposal will be done in consultation with school community stakeholders.

2. Process for Submitting District Program (Choice) Proposal

- 2.1. Principals will notify their Director of Instruction about their school's interest in pursuing a program proposal.
- 2.2. The Director of Instruction will provide feedback to the Principal on the school's expression of interest in pursuing a District Program (Choice).
- 2.3. Using the *District Programs Choice Application* Template (AP 220 – Appendix A) the Principal will submit a proposal, in writing, to the Director of Instruction for an initial review to determine all criteria for program establishment have been met.
- 2.4. If the proposal meets criteria it will then be reviewed by the Senior Management Team (SMT).
- 2.5. If supported by SMT, the proposal will be presented to the Student Learning and Well-Being Committee for input prior to being approved by the Board.

3. Implementation, Management and Supervision

- 3.1. Implementation will be the responsibility of the District, in keeping with District policies and procedures; for example, site and space allocation, selection of students, assignment of staff, advertising of program, etc.
- 3.2. The school-based administrator shall be responsible for the management and supervision of the program, staff, and facilities.
- 3.3. Programs shall have access to the full range of services provided to students and staff in regular programs.

4. Monitoring and Program Review

- 4.1. All District Programs (Choice) shall be monitored throughout the school year by school-based administration.
- 4.2. A review of programs will take place on a regular basis.
- 4.3. Such programs are to be modified or discontinued in accordance with the identified needs of the student population.
- 4.4. Recommendations to discontinue existing programs will be approved by the Board.

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

Adopted: February 1, 2003

Revised: January 9, 2013; July 2, 2013; September 24, 2018; November 6, 2018, June 5 2019