

EXEMPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Background

Although school attendance is compulsory for all persons from the first school day of the year in which they attain 6 years of age until they turn 16, there are certain circumstances in which a child may be exempted or excluded from attending a public school in the District.

Procedures

1. Exemptions may be permitted if:
 - 1.1. A child is attending an independent school; an educational institution operated by the government of Canada or by a First Nation or a Community Education Authority established by one or more participating First Nations under the First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act (Canada), or is participating in a kindergarten to grade 12 program of studies provided by a treaty First Nation under its own laws.
 - 1.2. A parent has registered a child for home schooling;
 - 1.3. A child is prevented from attending school by illness or other unavoidable cause.
 - 1.3.1. The District will continue, however, to provide such students with an educational program.
2. Exclusions for medical reasons are permitted under the *School Act*, Sec. 91.
 - 2.1. Under Section 91 (2) and (3) if the School Medical Officer considers a student's health condition endangers the health or welfare of students or the employees of the District, the School Medical Officer must report the name of the student to the Superintendent and the Board must promptly exclude from school the student whose health condition is reported by the School Medical Officer as being dangerous. A student who is excluded under subsection (3) must not be permitted to return to school until a certificate is received signed by the School Medical Officer permitting the student to return to school.
 - 2.2. Under Section 91 (5) if a teacher, administrator, or the Director of Instruction suspects a student is suffering from a communicable disease (as defined by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority) or other physical, mental, or emotional condition that would endanger the health or welfare of the other students, the matter must be reported to the School Medical Officer and the student may be excluded from school attendance until a certificate is obtained for the student from the School Medical Officer, a private medical practitioner, or a private nurse practitioner. Such exclusions are used rarely. They are most often applied when the student and/or the student's family is unwilling to follow through on recommendations for medical intervention or in the cases in which the student's behaviour is becoming progressively more dangerous. In such cases District procedure requires:
 - 2.2.1. The Principal shall consult with their Director of Instruction.
 - 2.2.2. A meeting shall be arranged to discuss the possibility of exclusion with the

Associate Superintendent, the Director of Instruction, the Principal, the parents, appropriate District Learning Services staff, and appropriate Health Care or Social Services professionals already involved in supporting the parent.

- 2.2.3. Prior to the meeting, the parents will be provided with all available documentation related to the concerns and a copy of Administrative Procedure - 331.
- 2.2.4. The purpose of the meeting will be to review relevant documentation and develop a plan of action with regard to the student. The Associate Superintendent will chair the meeting.
- 2.2.5. Following the meeting, the Associate Superintendent will determine whether a medical exclusion is appropriate as part of the plan of action for the student.
- 2.2.6. If a decision is made to exclude the student pursuant to section 91 (5), the Associate Superintendent will advise the Superintendent, the Principal, and the School Medical Officer.
- 2.2.7. A letter from the Associate Superintendent will advise the parents that the student may not return to school until the appropriate medical practitioner is satisfied that the student's behaviour or condition no longer endangers the health or welfare of other students or District employees. In cases where the mental condition of a student is in question where appropriate, a certificate from a psychiatrist or psychologist may be required. A copy of this certificate would then be directed to both the Associate Superintendent and the School Medical Officer indicating treatment initiated/completed.
- 2.2.8. The Associate Superintendent shall inform the Superintendent of the exclusion. All medical exclusions are then brought to the Board for information in private session.
- 2.2.9. The District Principal of Learning Services, the Director of Instruction, or the District Principal of Alternate Education will work with the Principal to arrange for appropriate instruction support during the course of the student's exclusion, including consideration of home study and the Vancouver Learning Network.
- 2.2.10. The exclusion shall be noted on the student's permanent record card by the Principal and a copy of the medical exclusion letter will be included in the student file.
- 2.2.11. The student's status will be monitored by the Associate Superintendent until he/she returns to school or is placed for treatment.
- 2.2.12. When the assessment is received indicating that it is appropriate to lift the exclusion, the Associate Superintendent will convene a meeting with appropriate District staff to review the assessment recommendation and to develop an appropriate educational plan for the student.
- 2.2.13. The Associate Superintendent will communicate with the parents indicating the terms under which the exclusion will be lifted and the program and/or school placement to which the student has been assigned.

Reference: Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 79, 85, 91 School Act

Adopted: January 1980

Revised: August 1, 1990; September 1994; February 1996; January 1999; January 2016; September 24, 2018