

4010 Schools and Programs of Choice

Policy 4010

STATUS: ADOPTED

SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS OF CHOICE

Adopted: June 16, 2004

Last Revised: June 19, 2013

Description:

PREAMBLE

The Board of Education expects each of its schools to provide programs, services and support designed to meet the unique needs of individual student. In this sense, each school is encouraged to develop strategies, structures and approaches appropriate to address all student's needs.

Beyond this, the Board recognizes that there may be parental and/or student interest in having the district make available a school or program with a particular philosophy, service delivery model or focus. The intent of this policy and its accompanying regulations is to articulate the Board's beliefs regarding such options, and the Board's criteria for decision-making with regard to proposals for such options.

POLICY

The Board of Education believes that full consideration should be given to educational options for students where these options are sound and sustainable, and where the options clearly enhance educational opportunities available to students.

For the purposes of this policy, the term "options" refers to programs within a school, or entire school programs, based on alternative educational models. Examples of such programs or models include Montessori and French Immersion.

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Description:

REGULATIONS:

1. The Board will consider proposals from parent, community, staff and student groups, with respect to possible options (alternative programs).
2. These regulations will provide criteria that will:
 - assist groups in preparing proposals;
 - guide the Board's decision-making with respect to any proposal;
 - For any proposal to be given consideration by the Board, the proposal must:
 - a) Meet the requirements of the School Act, School Act Regulations, Minister's Orders and any other applicable legislation or policy (provincial or local).
 - b) Meet curriculum requirements.
 - c) Be open to any students in the district within any parameters established by the Board.
3. With regard to any Board-approved option, the Board will not provide a level of funding exceeding that which would normally be provided to that school or program.
4. The Board shall make all reasonable efforts to provide information that may be required by groups in the preparation of proposals.
5. Proposals are to be submitted to the Board. Following the Board's receipt of a proposal, the Superintendent of Schools shall design and implement a plan for the review and evaluation of the proposal. The review and evaluation, and the Board's final determination, will be based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:
 - a) The goals and objectives of the program
 - b) The educational needs being addressed by the program and how the program would address these needs
 - c) The educational research in support of the program
 - d) Costs related directly or indirectly to the program, including transportation costs
 - e) The sustainability of the program (including resource, financial, personnel, and facility-related factors, and any other factors possibly affecting sustainability)
 - f) Current parent and community support for the program, as well as evidence of support extending beyond the year of program implementation
 - g) Impact of the program on the school, community and district (including impact on other schools)
 - h) Proposed location of the program

- i) The operational and organizational plan for the program
 - j) Implications of any Collective Agreement provisions with respect to implementation and staffing of the program
 - k) Any issues which may be related to the implementation or continued operation of the program
 - l) Overall benefit of the program to the District
- 7) Any group wishing to present a proposal will be expected to present the proposal in writing, to the Board at a regular meeting of the Board.
- 8) The Superintendent will advise any group indicating interest in preparing a proposal, of the criteria and requirements set out in these regulations. Groups will be encouraged to include within proposals, information relevant to these regulations, together with any other information the group may feel would assist the Board in its deliberations.
- 9) The Superintendent shall prepare a report to the Board based on the review and evaluation of the proposal.
- 10) Approval of any educational option will be specific to one location unless otherwise stipulated by the Board.
- 11) The final decision with respect to all proposals rests with the Board of Education. The Board may:
- a) Grant approval
 - b) Grant approval with particular conditions
 - c) Reject the proposal
 - d) Refer the proposal back to the applicant group for further work (to be specified by the Board)
- 12) The Board will provide to the applicant group, any reasons for rejection of a proposal.
- 13) Subsequent to approving an option, or following implementation of an option, the Board may at any time review the option to determine whether, or under what conditions, the option will continue to have Board support.