

5195 Child Care in School District Facilities

Policy 5195

STATUS: **FOR REVIEW**

CHILD CARE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Board Approved:

Last Revised: February 17, 2021

The Board of Education recognizes that access to licensed child care is important to families throughout the District.

As per the School Act section 85 (1-4), the Board of Education promotes the use of board property for child care programs, whereas, the Board itself may provide before and after school child care to students enrolled with the Board or engage in services with third party licensed child care providers ensuring that the usage does not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the provision of educational activities (including early learning programs and extra-curricular school activities).

With regard to child care in school facilities, the Board has developed regulations consistent with Ministerial Order 326/2020 (M326) (Child Care Order: Ministry of Education).



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Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance with respect to how the board will promote the use of board property for the provision of child care programs between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. on business days by either the board or third-party licensees.
2. The use of board property by licensed child care providers must not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the provision of educational activities including early learning programs and extracurricular school activities.

Definitions

3. In this Policy, the terms “board property,” “business day,” “child care program,” “educational activities” and “licensee” have the meanings given to those terms in the *School Act*.
4. “Direct and indirect costs” include:
 - a. Utilities;
 - b. Maintenance and repair;
 - c. A reasonable allowance for the cost of providing custodial services;
 - d. A reasonable allowance for time school district administrators and other staff spend on matters relating to the use of board property by licensed child care providers.

Guiding Principles

5. The board will, on an ongoing basis, assess community need for child care programs on board property, through a process of engagement with employee groups, parents and guardians, Indigenous community representatives, Indigenous rightsholders, Indigenous service providers, and existing child care operators. The process for engagement will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
6. If child care programs are to be provided on board property, the Board will consider, on an ongoing basis, whether those programs are best provided by licensees other than the board, the board, or a combination of both.

7. Child care programs, if operated by the board, will be operated for a fee no greater than the direct costs the board incurs in providing the child care program.
8. Fees for the use of board property by licensees other than the board will not exceed the direct and indirect costs the board incurs in making board property available for the child care program.
9. If child care programs are operated by a licensee other than the board, the board will require the licensee to agree to comply with this Policy.
10. In selecting licensees other than the board to operate a child care program, the board will give special consideration to the candidates' proposals to: (a) provide inclusive child care; and, (b) foster Indigenous reconciliation in child care.
11. If the board decides to operate a child care program, the board will ensure that it is operated in a manner that:
 - a. fosters Indigenous reconciliation in child care. In particular, the child care program will be operated consistently with the following principles of the *British Columbia Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*: (i) Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the area of education; and (ii) "Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education"; and
 - b. is inclusive and consistent with the principles of non-discrimination set out in the *British Columbia Human Rights Code*.
 - c. integrate Indigenous Knowledge and teaching methods into child care and build children's capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect.
12. Any contract with a licensee other than the board, to provide a child care program on board property must be in writing and subject to review no less than every three (3) years. The contract must contain:
 - a. a description of the direct and indirect costs for which the licensee is responsible;
 - b. an agreement by the licensee to comply with this policy and all other applicable policies;
 - c. a provision describing how the agreement can be terminated by the board or the licensee;
 - d. an allocation of responsibility to ensure adequate insurance is in place to protect the interests of the board;

- e. a statement that the agreement can only be amended in writing, signed by the board and the licensee;
 - f. a requirement for the licensee to maintain appropriate standards of performance; and
 - g. a requirement that the licensee must at all times maintain the required license to operate a child care facility.
13. Prior to entering into or renewing a contract with a licensee other than the board to provide a child care program on board property, the board will consider:
- a. Whether it is preferable for the board to become a licensee and operate a child care program directly;
 - b. the availability of school district staff to provide before and after school care;
 - c. whether, with respect to a licensee seeking renewal or extension of a contract, the licensee has performed its obligations under this Policy and its contract with the board, with specific regard to performance in respect of providing an inclusive child care program and one that promotes indigenous reconciliation in child care.