



Policy 20 – District Programs of Choice

Background

The Surrey School District No. 36 (the “District”) Programs of Choice are intended to provide diverse educational opportunities that respond to student interests and learning needs, while ensuring equitable access, fiscal responsibility, and alignment with the foundational statements of the Board of Education of School District No. 36 (Surrey) (the “Board”).

Procedures

1. Criteria for Establishment of a Program of Choice

- a. The Board may consider the establishment of a Program of Choice provided the following criteria are satisfied:
 - i. The Program of Choice shall comply with the *School Act*, *School Regulation*, applicable Ministry of Education and Child Care guidelines or policies, and Board policies and administrative procedures;
 - ii. The Program of Choice shall have a clearly articulated educational rationale;
 - iii. The Program of Choice shall conform to collective agreements;
 - iv. The Program of Choice shall not adversely affect the operational requirements of the District;
 - v. Admission to the Program of Choice shall be open to students residing within the District, and where student selection is required due to program design or capacity constraints, the admission process shall be fair, transparent, and clearly articulated;
 - vi. The Program of Choice shall be accessible to students regardless of financial means;
 - vii. Programs of Choice shall be offered only in space surplus to the needs of the neighborhood school program; and
 - viii. Transportation is not provided for Programs of Choice.

2. Preliminary Assessment Required

- a. Where a Program of Choice is under consideration, the District shall undertake a comprehensive preliminary assessment to evaluate the long-term viability of the proposed program, which may include, without limitation, consideration of the following factors:
 - i. The ability of the Program of Choice to fulfill a recognized educational need separate from existing programs and services;
 - ii. The ability of the Program of Choice to sustain minimum enrolment levels;

- iii. The availability of facilities and staffing;
- iv. The impact of the Program of Choice on other programs in the District;
- v. The potential impact of the Program of Choice on the District's future capital funding; and
- vi. A financial assessment addressing the availability of supporting grants and operating funds, and the short and long-term financial impact of the Program of Choice on the District.

3. Implementation

- a. The Superintendent or designate shall be responsible for implementing the Program of Choice.

4. Evaluation of a Program of Choice

- a. At the time a Program of Choice is implemented, the Superintendent shall ensure that an appropriate evaluation framework is established.
- b. All Programs of Choice shall be subject to a periodic evaluation, and evaluation reports shall be submitted to the Board for review.

References

School Act, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412.

School Regulation, B.C. Reg. 265/998.

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