

SPORTS AND FINE ARTS ACADEMIES

Background

The District recognizes its obligation, consistent with the *School Act* and relevant provincial legislation, to provide an educational program for all students of school age. It is the goal of the District to offer programs promoting excellence in instruction and optimal achievement for all students.

The District may support school or community initiated educational programs that bring a particular educational emphasis to student talents or to particular student needs, within the parameters of provincially prescribed and/or locally developed curriculum.

Procedures

1. Sports Academies and Fine Arts Academies considered will:
 - 1.1 Have a clearly articulated program rationale.
 - 1.2 Acknowledge parental desire for programs with a particular educational emphasis.
 - 1.3 Fulfill a recognized need separate from existing programs and services.
 - 1.4 Be free from any religious or ethnic affiliation.
 - 1.5 Be consistent with Board policies and administrative procedures.
 - 1.6 Be funded at the same levels with respect to resources and staff as those established for elementary, middle and secondary schools/grades/programs. Any additional costs for establishing or maintaining the Program will be the responsibility of the school.
 - 1.7 Conform with collective agreements.
 - 1.8 Identify the potential impact on other schools in the District.
 - 1.9 Not affect operational needs of the District.
 - 1.10 Be available to all students in the District, within school space.
 - 1.11 Be housed in facilities where space permits and which are suitable to the Program.
 - 1.12 Be maintained without transportation assistance from the District.
 - 1.13 Be subject to normal planning and staffing schedules established by the District.
 - 1.14 Be subject to evaluation on an ongoing basis by the District.

2. Process for Submitting Proposals for Sports Academies and Fine Arts Academies:
 - 2.1 Prior to submission of a proposal to the Board, consultation with the Superintendent or designate must occur.
 - 2.2 A written proposal including clear rationale for the Program will be submitted to the Board. The proposal will contain:
 - 2.2.1 An overview of the Program accompanied by the goals and objectives and implementation timeline for the program.
 - 2.2.2 A statement which outlines the educational value of the program for the District; including how the proposal is distinct from existing educational programs or fills a particular educational need not currently offered in the District.
 - 2.2.3 A clear indication of the intended school population to be served including age, grade levels, learner characteristics, and the number of students to be served.
 - 2.2.4 A clear description of the qualifications and nature of teaching support staff required to offer the Program.
 - 2.2.5 A clear description of the facilities required to offer the Program both in the immediate and long-term.
 - 2.2.6 Evidence of parental and community support for the Program.
 - 2.2.7 Student registration guidelines, including how students will be selected.
 - 2.2.8 Sources and sustainability of additional funds (where necessary).
 - 2.3 Upon receipt of a proposal, the Board may direct the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study, which will set out costs and other issues that may include:
 - 2.3.1 Staffing/human resource requirements.
 - 2.3.2 Facilities, both interim and long-term requirements.
 - 2.3.3 A proposed implementation timeline.
 - 2.3.4 Effects on other schools.

*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*

SD No. 40 (New Westminster)

Adopted: May 30, 2017

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