

NEW WESTMINSTER SANCTUARY SCHOOLS POLICY

The New Westminster Board of Education takes pride in its commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all children and families who are ordinarily resident in New Westminster, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

1. OBJECTIVE

To uphold the Board's commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students who are ordinarily resident in New Westminster including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

2. POLICY

- 2.1. All school age children who are ordinarily residents in the school district, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status in Canada, are entitled to admission in school.
- 2.2. The personal information of enrolled students or their families shall not be shared with federal immigration authorities unless required by law.
- 2.3. The Board shall not permit Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officials or immigration authorities to enter schools or Board facilities unless required by law.
- 2.4. All public school employees and volunteers shall be informed of this policy, and it will be communicated to requisite stakeholders including immigrant communities.

3. SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

The Board will implement communication protocols and admission procedures in accordance with these requirements.

- 3.1 This policy and relevant provisions of the School Act will be communicated annually to all school administrators, school office staff, and school teachers. Such materials will also be prominently displayed in school offices, admissions offices and on the Board's website.
- 3.2 The Board will provide orientation and training for all staff regarding the policy in order to promote expertise and sensitivity regarding the needs of students without immigration status in Canada.

- 3.3 A thorough communications plan will be developed to share this information in immigrant communities.
- 3.4 The appropriate instructions for staff and public information materials concerning admission procedures will be revised to reflect the above policy. Such revisions will also be included in all training and orientation programs for staff and community agencies who have responsibilities in this area.
- 3.5 All student registration forms, including electronic databases, which refer to immigration status in Canada, will be deemed strictly confidential.
- 3.6 All student registration forms, including electronic databases, will provide clearly stated options for any family which does not wish to share proof of immigration status as a means of establishing that they are ordinarily resident in New Westminster.
- 3.7 Where there is a need to verify a student's name, home address, or date of arrival in Canada, and where the usual supporting documentation is not available, the Board and schools will accept combination of tenancy agreements, utility bills and/or letters from lawyers, medical doctors, religious and community leaders and others confirming their personal knowledge that the student is ordinarily resident in the school district.
- 3.8 Schools will continue to comply with current Ministry of Education requirements in the case of students for whom ELL funding claims are made, but will not disseminate students' personal information.
- 3.9 An independent or third-party based complaints mechanism will be set up to hear from families who have been denied admission based on immigration status and appropriate accountability measures developed to ensure that no child who is ordinarily resident is turned away.
- 3.10 There will be an annual review of the implementation of these policies by Board of Education, which includes input from community organizations and stakeholder groups represented in the development of this policy.

SD No. 40 (New Westminster)

Adopted: May 30, 2017

Modification to this document is not permitted without prior written consent from SD No. 40 (New Westminster)