

PROVISION OF CHILD CARE

Background

The Board of Education is supportive of the positive community benefits that occur when appropriate school district spaces or sites are utilized by licensed childcare providers.

Definitions

"Board property", in relation to a board, means land or improvements that are owned or leased by the board, that are within the board's school district, and that are, have been or are intended to be used for educational activities;

"Business day" means a day other than Saturday, Sunday or a holiday;

"Child care" means a program that is prescribed for the purposes of the definition of "care" in section 1 of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*:

Supervision that is provided to:

- a child through a prescribed program,
- a child or youth through a prescribed residential program, or

"Educational activities" means the provision of educational programs, early learning programs and extracurricular school activities;

"Licensee", in relation to a child care program, means the person licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act to provide the child care program.

Procedures

1. The Board will consider operational viability of school district staff to provide before and after school care.
2. The Board will consider the availability of space within the school.
3. 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.
4. Child care programs, if operated by the Board, will be operated for a fee no greater than the costs the Board incurs in providing the child care program.
5. Fees for the use of Board property by licensees other than the Board will not exceed the costs the Board incurs in making Board property available for the child care program in accordance with the School Act and set by the Secretary-Treasurer from time to time.
6. 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 and all policies of the Board.

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7. In selecting licensees other than the Board to operate a child care program, the Board will give special consideration to the candidates' proposals that maintain a program philosophy and management concept congruent with the values of this Policy and the Board's Strategic Plan:
 - foster Indigenous reconciliation in child care;
 - provide inclusive child care;
 - demonstrate successful experience as a licensed childcare operator;
 - opt into the Provincial Child Care Reduction Initiative;
 - demonstrate financial stability; and
 - utilize the BC Early Learning Framework to guide and support learning experiences in childcare settings.
8. If the Board decides to operate a child care program, the Board will ensure that it is operated in a manner that:
 - 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";
 - is inclusive and consistent with the principles of non-discrimination set out in the British Columbia Human Rights Code;
 - incorporates input from local indigenous parents, students, organizations and First Nations communities; especially as it relates to the implementation and development of Indigenous education, language, and culture; and
9. 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 annually. The contract must contain:
 - a description of the direct and indirect costs for which the licensee is responsible, including a provision for late payment or default;
 - an agreement by the licensee to comply with this policy and all other applicable policies of the Board;
 - a provision describing how the agreement can be terminated by the Board or the licensee;
 - an allocation of responsibility to ensure adequate insurance is in place to protect the interests of the Board;
 - a statement that the agreement can only be amended in writing, signed by the Board and the licensee;
 - a requirement for the licensee to maintain appropriate standards of performance; and
 - a requirement that the licensee must at all times maintain the required license to operate a child care facility.

Reference: Policy 25 Provision of Child Care