

PROGRAMS OF CHOICE

It is essential that the District continue to be innovative in the delivery of education programs and services. The Board supports the provision of programs of choice which serve unique educational needs and which are accessible to students from beyond designated school boundaries.

New programs may be approved by the Board only following completion of a fair and open process in which advice from all stakeholder groups is sought, received and considered.

Specifically

1. The following new program criteria must be considered at each step in the process:
 - 1.1 The educational benefit of the program;
 - 1.2 The impact on existing programs and on enrollment at individual schools or across the District;
 - 1.3 The financial resources required to ensure successful implementation;
 - 1.4 The evidence of need or demand for this program;
 - 1.5 The degree to which the program reflects the goals of the Board and the Ministry of Education;
 - 1.6 The availability of classroom space or other facilities and equipment required for the program;
 - 1.7 The availability of qualified staff to ensure successful implementation of the program;
 - 1.8 The impact on other service providers.
2. The process for new program approval is as follows:
 - 2.1 Those individuals recommending the introduction of a new program will discuss this program with the Superintendent or designate who will advise them of the process for making application to the Choice Consultative Committee.
 - 2.2 The Choice Consultative Committee will receive and review new program proposals from individuals.
 - 2.3 The Choice Consultative Committee will consider the merit of the proposals, request additional information and/or clarification, and subsequently, make a recommendation regarding the proposal to the Superintendent.

- 2.4 The Chair of the Choice Consultative Committee will bring the proposal to the Superintendent for consideration. The Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board.
- 2.5 The Board will make a decision regarding the implementation of the proposed new program.
3. Following initial approval, programs of choice will be offered provided sufficient numbers of registrants make such offerings economically and educationally sound.
4. Students and parents shall be given the opportunity of gaining sufficient program information to make informed choices.
5. The Superintendent or designate shall recommend to the Board a budget allocation as part of the budget approval process.

Legal Reference: *Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 22, 65, 74.1, 75, 75.1, 85 School Act*