

# PROGRAMS OF CHOICE

## Background

The District believes in making program choices available to students whenever possible. Some optional programs may only be viable when offered in one location in the District but open to students throughout the District. From time to time the District will designate such optional programs as Programs of Choice.

All interested and qualified students are to have an equal opportunity to be selected for registration in Programs of Choice with limited enrollments.

A Program of Choice approved by the Board will:

- Operate within the parameters of the School Act and regulations and authority of the Board;
- Be consistent with Board policy and administrative procedures;
- Conform with collective agreements;
- Be funded at the same levels with respect to resources and staff as those established for elementary and secondary schools/grades/programs;
- Be housed in facilities where space permits and which are suitable to the program;
- Be maintained without transportation assistance from the District;
- Incur no extraordinary costs for program maintenance;
- Be subject to periodic evaluations by the District and/or Ministry of Education assessments.

## Procedures

1. Any community group seeking to have the District establish a program of choice will submit a written brief to the Board which contains a clear rationale for the program as well as:
  - 1.1 A clearly articulated philosophy and mission statement accompanied by the goals and objectives for the program;
  - 1.2 A statement which sets out the educational soundness of the program with supporting evidence including how the proposal is distinct from existing educational programs or fills a particular educational need not currently offered in the District;
  - 1.3 A clear indication of the intended school population to be served including age, grade levels, learner characteristics, and the number of students;
  - 1.4 A clear understanding of the facilities required to offer the program both in the immediate and long term;
  - 1.5 Evidence of community support for the program which indicates the parents have an understanding of the proposal and have or will have children who will enroll in the program;

- 1.6 Evidence of such programs' success if they are operating in other Districts.
2. Upon receipt of a proposal, the Board may direct the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study which will set out costs and other issues including:
  - 2.1 Staffing/human resource requirements including a clear definition of the qualifications and nature of professional staff and support staff required to offer the program;
  - 2.2 Facilities, both interim and long term requirements;
  - 2.3 Curriculum development and implementation;
  - 2.4 Administrative requirements;
  - 2.5 Sources of funding/revenue including government, private, or corporate services and any obligations of the District in the event outside funds are provided; and
  - 2.6 A proposed implementation timeline.The Superintendent may include members of the organization proposing the program in undertaking the feasibility study.
3. The Board will reply to the proposal after a review of the feasibility study.
4. Where a program is approved, the implementation will be the responsibility of the Superintendent.

Reference: Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 8.4, 8.5, 20, 22, 23, 65, 74.1, 75, 75.1, 85 School Act  
Collective Agreements

Adopted: November 2019  
Revised: