

ADMIN PROCEDURES MANUAL

The District is committed to ensuring that all students have an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the important roles that First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples have had in the development of Canada. Steps have been taken so that district schools are inclusive of all students by integrating Aboriginal perspectives into all planning and programming. These steps include the commonly shared experience of smudging among the district's diverse population.

Definition

Smudging involves the burning of one or more traditional medicines: cedar, sage, sweet grass or tobacco. Smudging is performed for a variety of reasons, and this practice is used to help students stop, slow down, become mindful and centered. The act of cleansing and purifying is considered to be part of living a good life.

The ceremonial use of cedar, sage, sweet grass or tobacco in or on school grounds is performed in relation to a traditional Aboriginal cultural activity and if it is performed on school grounds, it must be approved by the school-based Principal.

Procedures

The following protocol must be followed for the use of traditional Smudging on school grounds and facilities. In order to ensure continuity of practice, the following

2.2 Educational Information:

2.2.1 Explain the education component that is being taught; and/or

2.2.2 Describe the cultural significance of the ceremony;

2.2.3 Confirm that any individual's participation is invitational;

2.2.4 In the case of students attending school sponsored smudging ceremonies; parents are to be notified in advance and are told to contact the Principal if they have any questions or concerns. (NOTE: there is no need for signed parental consent.)

*Reference: Sections 6, 17, 20, 22, 26, 65, 85 School Act
Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Act
School Regulation 265/89*

SD No. 40 (New Westminister)

Adopted: May 30, 2017

Revised: June 22, 2021

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