

Child Care

Background

Bill 8, the Education Statutes Amendment Act, came into force on March 5, 2020. This amendment of the School Act by the provincial government enacts new provisions related to childcare facilities located on board of education property. It includes a prescriptive order from the Minister of Education with respect to the contents required in board policy to govern the establishment of child care facilities. Order M326, the Child Care Order, further defines the role of boards of education with respect to the provision of childcare programs.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance with respect to how the Board will promote the use of Board property for the provision of child care programs between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on business days by either the Board or third party licensees.

The use of Board property by licensed child care providers must not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the provision of educational activities including early learning programs and extracurricular school activities.

Definitions

In this Policy, the terms “Board property”, “business day”, “child care program”, “educational activities” and “licensee” have the meanings given to those terms in the School Act.

“Direct and indirect costs” include:

- a. Utilities;
- b. Maintenance and repair;
- c. A reasonable allowance for the cost of providing custodial services;
- d. A reasonable allowance for time School District Administrators and other staff spend on matters relating to the use of Board property by licensed child care providers.

Guiding Principles

The Board will, on an ongoing basis, assess community need for child care programs on Board property, through a process of engagement with employee groups, parents and guardians, Indigenous community representatives, Indigenous rightsholders, Indigenous service providers, and existing child care operators. The process for engagement will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Engagement with stakeholders may include respective Parents’ Advisory Councils (PAC), District Parents’ Advisory Council (DPAC), local unions, Principals and Vice Principals (PVPA), local First Nations.



Prior to entering into or renewing a contract with a licensee other than the Board to provide a child care program on Board property, the Board will consider:

- a. whether it is preferable for the Board to become a licensee and operate a child care program directly;
- b. the availability of School District staff to provide before and after school care;
- c. whether, with respect to licensee seeking renewal or extension of a contract, the licensee has performed its obligations under this Policy and its contract with the Board, with specific regard to performance in respect of providing an inclusive child care program and one that promotes Indigenous reconciliation in child care;
- d. the utilization of the British Columbia Early Learning Framework to guide and support learning experiences in childcare settings.

Reference: Bill 8 Education Statutes Amendment Act – Sections 85.1, 85.2, 85.3, 85.4;
Order M326 – Child Care Order

SD No. 40 (New Westminister)

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