



Section Five: Instructional Programs

542 - PROPOSALS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WITH EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

The Board of Education is committed to serving the diverse educational needs of students while focusing on student achievement and graduation requirements. The Board may, within the parameters of provincially prescribed and/or locally developed curriculum, support externally-initiated educational programs which provide a particular educational emphasis. Depending on the actual program established, there may or may not be a charge associated with provision of the program; however, the district's financial hardship policy (Policy 425 and 425R - *Student Fees*) will apply.

Should schools or educational departments want to establish an external partnership, the Superintendent must first be consulted. A proposal for partnership must be supported by the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and/or the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC), or the Superintendent prior to being submitted to the Board of Education for final approval. In order to be considered for implementation at the beginning of September, the Board must receive the proposal no later than February of the prior school year.

Availability of space, economic factors, ability to provide qualified staff, evidence that there is sufficient demand, and a plan to address financial hardship will all be considered in determining whether the proposal for the external partnership will be approved.

Policy

To ensure that the underlying principles of public education and quality of educational programs are maintained, proposals for external partnerships must be approved by the Board. Where an external partnership is approved, the implementation will be the responsibility of the school or department.

1. Proposals for external partnerships must include the following and follow the format outlined in Appendix 542A:
 - 1.1 operate within the parameters of the School Act and regulations and authority of the Board of Education, follow all relevant Board policies and conform with collective agreements;
 - 1.2 be free from any religious, political or ethnic affiliation;
 - 1.3 have a clearly articulated vision, ensuring equitable access opportunities for all students;
 - 1.4 provide a rationale for fulfilling an educational need separate from existing programs and services;



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- 1.5 provide a summary of the proposed plan including a description of the learning standards and program delivery;
 - 1.6 outline the proposed instructional time;
 - 1.7 outline the qualified staff required and the external expertise that will be used;
 - 1.8 outline expected changes and the impact on students, staff and parents;
 - 1.9 provide an analysis of the impact to the school facility, transportation, neighbouring district schools, other area schools and home schooling;
 - 1.10 outline the direct costs to the District, the school, the educational department, and the student, ensuring any additional costs are the responsibility of the student;
 - 1.11 be funded at the same levels, by the district, with respect to resources and staff as those established for all other schools/grades/programs and incur no extraordinary costs for program maintenance, with any additional costs being the responsibility of the student. No additional costs will be borne by the Board of Education;
 - 1.12 include the process to inform parents/caregivers/students of the District's financial hardship policy (Policy 425 and 425R - *Student Fees*), (e.g. newsletters, meetings, notices to parents, course selection handbooks, and at the time of registration);
 - 1.13 be housed in facilities with appropriate space which is suitable to the program;
 - 1.14 be operated without additional transportation costs to the Board;
 - 1.15 outline the consultation/promotion process with the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and/or the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC), District and school community;
 - 1.16 include an evaluation process.
2. Upon receipt of a proposal, the Board may direct the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study which will include consultation as per Policy 715 - *Consultation with Partners in Education*.
 3. Upon the Board of Education's approval of a proposal, a Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix 542B – *Memorandum of Understanding for Educational Programs with External Partnerships*) will be developed between the Board of Education and the external group.
 4. Any proposed changes to approved external partnerships (e.g. increases in fee structure and/or program delivery) must be brought to the Education and Student Services Committee in November of each calendar year for review and a recommendation for any change must be forwarded to the Board of Education for approval prior to announcing the continuation of the external partnership for the upcoming year.