



## Administrative Procedure 220

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# ALTERNATE PROGRAMS AND SCHOOLS

## Background

The District has a history of providing educational choices for students. These choices include many locally developed courses and programs.

Public education must serve the needs of students who represent a broad spectrum of interests and beliefs. The District believes its role is to build capacity within the entire District to provide options for students through a variety of programs of emphasis. Therefore, the District supports the provision of educational programs for students based on specialized curriculum, pedagogy or philosophy if:

- The program meets the requirements of the [School Act](#) and [Regulations](#).
- Instruction is consistent with Provincially Authorized or Board/Authority Authorized courses.
- The program is consistent with the Ministry curriculum direction.

To ensure the underlying principles of public education and the quality of educational programming are not compromised, all locally developed courses and programs must go through a process of approval by the Board.

## Procedures

1. The Board will consider the establishment of alternate programs or schools when the following criteria have been met:
  - 1.1. The proposed program or school will have a statement of philosophy and objectives.
  - 1.2. The proposed program or school must be based on a demonstrated need.
  - 1.3. The proposed program or school will be open to application by any student in the District if it is a District program. If selection of students is required because of the nature of the program or limitations of space, criteria and a process will be approved as part of the program or school proposal.
  - 1.4. The proposed program or school can be accommodated in suitable facilities. The District may locate such a program in a classroom, a school within a school, a designated school, or at more than one site.
  - 1.5. The proposed program or school will be reviewed for issues of equity.

- 1.6. Final permission for the program will be subject to Board approval of funding and a suitable location.
  
2. For the purpose of this administrative procedure, an educational program is defined as a set of individual courses and activities with a common sense of purpose. It may be a District program, accessible to all students from within the District and have no defined catchment area or it may be unique to one particular school.

Reference: Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 8.4, 8.5, 20, 22, 23, 65, 74.1, 75, 75.1, 85 School Act  
Specialty Academy Criteria Regulation 219/08  
Collective Agreements

Adopted: December 16, 1985  
Revised: May 29, 2002; December 15, 2020