

<b>Section:</b>	<b>District Administration</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Child Care Facilities</b>

## Purpose

1. Subject to available space and educational program requirements, this policy is to provide guidance for promoting the use of board property for the provision of childcare programs between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday by the board or third-party licensees, in accordance with the *School Act* and Ministerial Order M326/20.
2. The use of board property by licensed childcare providers must not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the provision of educational activities including early learning programs and extracurricular school activities.

## Definitions

3. In this Policy, the terms “board property,” “business day,” “childcare program,” “educational activities” and “licensee” have the meanings given to those terms in the *School Act*.
4. “Direct and indirect costs” include:
  - 4.1. Utilities;
  - 4.2. Maintenance and repair;
  - 4.3. A reasonable allowance for the cost of providing custodial services; and
  - 4.4. A reasonable allowance for time board administrators and other staff to spend on matters relating to the use of board property by licensed childcare providers.

## Policy

5. The board will, on an ongoing basis, assess community need for childcare programs on board property, through a process of engagement with the District Parents’ Advisory Council (DPAC), the Mission Principals and Vice-Principals Association, the Mission Teachers Union (MTU), the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 593 (CUPE) , Siwal Si’wes Indigenous Education Advisory Council, the First Nations Leq’á:mel, Matheqwí, Qwó:lt’el, and Sq’éwlets Indigenous Communities on whose traditional territories that the school district resides, Indigenous rightsholders, Indigenous service providers, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Childcare Resource and Referral Centre (CCRR), the Mission Association for Community Living (MACL), the City of Mission, existing childcare operators, and parents, guardians and caregivers. The process for engagement will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

As outlined in the Guidelines, the board will ensure that childcare is provided in a manner that:

- 5.1. Fosters an inclusive learning environment;
  - 5.2. Fosters a racial equity learning spirit and the principles of non-discrimination set out in the *British Columbia Human Rights Code*;
  - 5.3. Fosters reconciliation and equity for Indigenous children in childcare by operating consistently with the principles of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the *BC Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;
  - 5.4. Fosters an environment that supports children with disabilities and diverse abilities; and
  - 5.5. Is consistent with the vision and principles of the British Columbia Early Learning Framework.
6. If childcare programs are to be provided on board property, the board will consider, on an ongoing basis, whether those programs are best provided by licensees other than the board, the board, or a combination of both.
  7. If childcare programs are operated by a licensee other than the board, the board will require the licensee to agree to comply with this Policy.
  8. Fees for childcare programs if operated by the board, will be provided for a fee no greater than the direct costs the board incurs in providing the childcare program.
  9. If Childcare programs are operated by licensees other than the board, the license of occupation fees levied by the Board will not exceed the direct and indirect costs the board incurs in making board property available for the childcare program. Any cost reductions are expected to be passed along to parents to support reduced fees for the childcare program provided on board property.
  10. Prior to entering or renewing, a contract with a licensee to provide a childcare program on board property, the board will consider:
    - 10.1. Whether it is preferable for the board to become a licensee and operate a childcare program directly;
    - 10.2. the availability of board staff to provide before and after school care;
    - 10.3. a licensee's proposal for providing a childcare program, including:
      - a. the plan for the provision of services in accordance with this policy,
      - b. the proposal for fees charged to parents considering reduced license of occupation fees charged by the board for operating a childcare program on board property, and

- c. the structure of the organization – business or not-for-profit.
- 10.4. whether a licensee seeking renewal or extension of a contract has performed its obligations under this Policy and its contract with the board with specific regard to:
- a. the provision of an inclusive childcare program,
  - b. the provision of a program that promotes indigenous reconciliation in childcare,
  - c. the provision of a program that is consistent with the British Columbia Early Learning framework, and
  - d. the fees levied for parents participating in the program.

## Guidelines:

11. The provision of Childcare services within Mission Public Schools are to operate in a manner that:
- 11.1. The child's educational experiences or outcomes are **not** predictable because of their race, ethnicity, linguistic background, economic class, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical and cognitive ability, or any other socio-political identity marker;
- 11.2. Supports the rights of Indigenous peoples, consistent with the following:
- a. the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:
    - i. Call to Action 12  
*We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.*
    - ii. Call to Action 62.iii:  
*Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect;*
  - b. The United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
    - i. Article 8.1  
*Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.*
    - ii. Article 14.2:  
*Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.*
    - iii. Article 15.1:  
*Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information;*
  - c. the *British Columbia Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*:
    - i. *Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the area of education; and*

- ii. *Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education.*

- 11.3. Fosters a culture of equity for children in the childcare program, meaning that every child:
- a. receives whatever they need to thrive social-emotionally, culturally, and academically, every day,
  - b. has a right to feel loved and cared for and to feel that they belong to the childcare community,
  - c. is seen and valued for who they truly are as a growing person, and their unique interests and gifts are nurtured and cultivated,
  - d. has access to an extensive range of learning opportunities, activities, and materials, including authentic Indigenous learning opportunities.
- 11.4. Fosters an equity-based learning spirit among caregivers regarding racism and ableism in the childcare program, meaning that the caregivers:
- a. are aware of their personal implicit biases and how their attitudes, stereotypes and beliefs may impact how they perceive and respond to children of colour, or children with disabilities or diverse abilities;
  - b. are aware of practices that uphold inequities, and work to remove these barriers;
  - c. are aware of structural racism and ableism and the ways in which systems of education, employment, transportation, housing, health care and criminal justice produce discriminatory outcomes for persons of colour, or persons with disabilities or diverse abilities.
- 11.5. Fosters a culture of inclusiveness, consistent with the principles of non-discrimination set out in the *British Columbia Human Rights Code*.
- 11.6. Delivers its programs consistent with the vision and principles of the British Columbia Early Learning Framework.

### **Contract**

12. Any contract with a licensee, to provide a childcare program on board property, must be in writing and subject to review no less than every five years. The contract must contain:
- 12.1. a description of the direct and indirect costs for which the licensee is responsible;
  - 12.2. an agreement that the licensee must comply with this policy and all other applicable policies;
  - 12.3. a plan on how the licensee will deliver its services consistent with the requirements of this policy and the vision and principles of the British Columbia Early Learning Framework;

- 12.4. a plan on how the licensee will provide fees for its program considering the reduced license of occupation fees charged by the board for operating a childcare program on board property;
- 12.5. an agreement that the licensee will provide periodic reports to the board on its ability to deliver services and meet its obligations;
- 12.6. a provision describing how the agreement can be terminated by the board or the licensee;
- 12.7. an allocation of responsibility to ensure adequate insurance is in place to protect the interests of the board;
- 12.8. a requirement that the agreement can only be amended in writing, signed by the board and the licensee;
- 12.9. a requirement for the licensee to maintain appropriate standards of performance; and
- 12.10. a requirement that the licensee must at all times maintain the required license to operate a childcare facility.

**Date of Original Board Approval: November 16, 2021 Approved in Principle**

**Date Amended: January 18, 2022, approved.**

*Legal Reference: School Act Section 85.1, 85.2, 85.3, 85.4 and Ministerial Order M326*

*Cross Reference: British Columbia Early Learning Framework*

*District Administration: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy*

*School Administration Safe, Caring and Respectful School Policy*