

POLICY 320 SCHOOL ADMISSION AND PLACEMENT

Purpose

The Board of Education (the “Board”) will provide an education program for every school-age student who is Ordinarily Resident in British Columbia.

This policy does not apply to fee-paying students or non-resident students.

Definitions

- Ordinarily Resident – Under the School Act, a student is considered Ordinarily Resident in British Columbia (“B.C.”) when the student and their parent or guardian live in B.C. as their usual place of residence.

Guidelines

Student registration, enrolment, and placement in the Chilliwack School District (the “District”) is to be guided by the following principles:

1. Access to Neighbourhood Schools:
 - Students will have priority access to attend the school designated as their catchment area.
2. School Placement:
 - Families can request admission to schools outside their catchment area for educational reasons or preferences. Acceptance depends on the space, programs, and District resources available.
3. Certainty, Stability, Continuity:
 - The school placement process should support stability and continuity for students and families. When possible, all school-aged children in a family will attend the same school. This must comply with the School Act, Ministry Policy, Board timelines, and the family’s wishes.
4. Efficient Resource Allocation:
 - The school placement process should help District staff plan how to optimize space and learning resources. This planning helps meet District demand and reduces changes at the start of the school year.

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- If a parent or guardian requests that their student attend a school outside their catchment area, they are responsible for transportation and costs associated with that decision.
- The Board will work to provide programs that meet students' interests and needs. Specialized programs may be limited to specific sites where space is available.
- The Board must manage its resources in a fiscally responsible manner. Resource decisions should align with the District's core values.

Reference

- [Administrative Procedure 317](#): International Student Program: Fee Paying Students
- [Administrative Procedure 335](#): Residency and Student Eligibility
- [Administrative Procedure 337](#): School Admission and Choice
- [Administrative Procedure 338](#): Specialty Academies and Programs
- [Administrative Procedure 377](#): French Immersion