

School District #62 (Sooke)

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS	No.: F-302
	Effective: Jan. 26/16 Revised: Feb. 27/24 Reviewed: Dec. 1/15; Dec. 8/15; Jan. 26/16; June 1/21; June 22/21; Sept. 28/21; Jan. 11/24; Jan. 23/24; Feb. 27/24

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

The District recognizes the importance of access to affordable, quality child care on school grounds because positive opportunities for children ages birth to five years impact the success of students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Consistent with Section 85.1 to 85.4 of the *School Act* and Ministerial Order 326/20 – the Child Care Order, 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. Use shall be subject to the details outlined below.

Procedures

1. Assessment of Community Need for Child Care:

- 1.1 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 caregivers, Indigenous community representatives, Indigenous rightsholders, Indigenous service providers, municipalities, community partners, and existing child care operators. The process for engagement will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- 1.2 If child care 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.

2. Hours of Operation:

- 2.1 The hours of operation will be between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, throughout the school year.
- 2.2 If the child care services will operate outside of the school calendar, the Superintendent of Schools or designate, will review feasibility with the Director of Facilities and school-based administrators prior to approval.

3. Program Fees:

- 3.1 Child care programs, if operated by the Board, will be operated for a fee no greater than the direct costs the Board incurs in providing the child care program.
- 3.2 Fees for the use of Board property by licensees other than the Board will not exceed the direct and indirect costs the Board incurs in making Board property available for the child care program.
- 3.3 "Direct and indirect costs" could include, but are not limited to:
 - 3.3.1 Utilities;
 - 3.3.2 Maintenance and repair;
 - 3.3.3 A reasonable allowance for the cost of providing custodial services;

- 3.3.4 A reasonable allowance for the time that school district administrators and other staff spend on matters relating to the use of Board property by licensed child care providers.
- 3.4 If child care programs are operated by a licensee other than the Board, the Board will require the licensee to agree to comply with this Policy.

4.0 Application Process & Licensee Contracts:

- 4.1 In selecting licensees other than the Board to operate a child care program, the Board will give special consideration to the candidates' proposals to: (a) provide inclusive child care; (b) foster Indigenous reconciliation in child care; (c) maintain a program philosophy and management concept that aligns with our child care Policy and our Strategic Plan; (d) implement the goals of the B.C Early Learning Framework, and (e) opt into the Provincial Fee Reduction Initiative.
- 4.2 If the Board decides to operate a child care program, the Board will ensure that it is operated in a manner that:
 - 4.2.1 fosters Indigenous reconciliation in child care. In particular, the child care program will be operated consistently with the following principles of the British Columbia *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*:
 - 4.2.1.1 Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the area of education; and
 - 4.2.1.2 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
 - 4.2.2 is inclusive and consistent with the principles of non-discrimination set out in the British Columbia *Human Rights Code*.
- 4.3 Any contract with a licensee other than the Board, to provide a child care program on Board property, must be in writing and subject to regular review. The contract must contain:
 - 4.3.1 a description of the direct and indirect costs for which the licensee is responsible;
 - 4.3.2 an agreement by the licensee to comply with this Policy and all other applicable policies;
 - 4.3.3 a provision describing how the agreement can be terminated by the Board or the licensee;
 - 4.3.4 an allocation of responsibility to ensure adequate insurance is in place to protect the interests of the Board;
 - 4.3.5 a statement that the agreement can only be amended in writing, signed by the Board and the licensee;
 - 4.3.6 a requirement for the licensee to maintain appropriate standards of performance;
 - 4.3.7 a requirement that the licensee must at all times maintain the required license to operate a child care facility, and
 - 4.3.8 an understanding that the licensee will work in co-operation with the District's Early Years' staff on ongoing professional development.
- 4.4 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:
 - 4.4.1 whether it is preferable for the Board to become a licensee and operate a child care program directly;
 - 4.4.2 the availability of school district staff to provide before and after school care;
 - 4.4.3 whether, with respect to a licensee seeking renewal or extension of a contract, the licensee has performed its obligations under this Policy and its contract with

the Board, in respect of providing an inclusive child care program and one that promotes Indigenous reconciliation in child care.

References:

School Act:

- Section 85.1 – Policies respecting child care programs
- Section 85.2 – Boards may provide child care programs
- Section 85.3 – Child care programs provided by others
- Section 85.4 – Use of Board property for child care programs

Ministerial Order 326/20 – the Child Care Order