



The Board of Education of
School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

Item 11E.iii

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Education **DATE:** 18 June 2024
FROM: Donna Kriger, Superintendent
RE: **Policy 362 – Sanctuary Schools – First Reading**

Background

A key responsibility of the Board of Education is to provide direction through its policy process. These include planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating policy.

Upon approval of this policy, an Administrative Procedure will be developed to ensure practices within each SD83 school are consistent and aligned with the *School Act*.

Issue

As a school district, we are committed to providing education to all students who live within our communities, in a safe and welcoming environment. This includes children and families with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

The Shuswap Immigrant Services Society has approached SD83 with a request to develop a policy ensuring that families who live within our geographical boundaries and who meet the provincial definition of “ordinarily resident,” can access school without fear that their information will be shared with federal immigration authorities, unless there is a specific case where it may be required to do so by law.

This policy ensures that children within SD83 will receive support, no matter what their life circumstances might be. The Shuswap Immigrant Services Society and SD83 will work together to determine whether students are able to enroll through a regular registration process, whether they are International fee paying students, or whether the Sanctuary School Policy is the support they fall under.

Recommendation

“That the Board of Education approve the first reading of Policy 362 – Sanctuary Schools, as presented.”

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Kriger
Superintendent of Schools

POLICY 362 SANCTUARY SCHOOLS

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students and families who reside within the District, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

To uphold the Board's commitment to providing educational opportunities for all students in the District, the Board of Education recognizes the importance of extending this to include students with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

Guidelines

1. All school age children who are ordinarily resident in the District, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status in Canada, are entitled to admission to school.
2. The personal information of enrolled students or their families shall not be shared with federal immigration authorities unless required by law.
3. The Board of Education shall not permit Canada Border Services Agency (CSBA) officials or immigration authorities to enter schools or Board facilities unless required by law.
4. All District employees and volunteers shall be informed of this policy, and it will be communicated to requisite stakeholders.
5. The Superintendent will implement communication protocols and administrative procedures that will be reviewed annually with school district principals and clerical staff.
6. Orientation and training for school administration will be provided regarding the policy to promote expertise and sensitivity regarding the needs of students without immigration status in Canada.
7. All student registration forms, including electronic databases, which refer to immigration status in Canada, will be deemed strictly confidential.
8. All student registration forms, including electronic databases, will provide clearly stated options for any family which does not wish to share details of immigration status as a means of establishing that they are ordinarily resident in the District.

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9. Where there is a need to verify a student's name, home address, or date of arrival in Canada, and where the usual supporting documentation is not available, the Board and schools will accept combination of tenancy agreements, utility bills and/or letters from lawyers, medical doctors, religious and community leaders and others confirming their personal knowledge that the student is ordinarily resident in the District.

10. Schools will continue to comply with current Ministry of Education requirements in the case of students for whom ELL funding claims are made but will not disseminate students' personal information.

11. Communication will be developed to share this policy in immigrant communities.

Related Legislation:
Related Contract Article:
Date Adopted:
Date Amended:
Date Amended:

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