



Chilliwack School District  
*"Partners In Learning"*

## POLICY 611

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### DISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOLS, SCHOOLS OF CHOICE & DISTRICT PROGRAMS

#### DEFINITIONS:

**District Magnet School** provides a specific school wide educational focus (eg traditional or fine arts), that has the entire school district as its catchment area.

**School of Choice** provides a program with a specific educational focus (eg traditional or fine arts), while maintaining the existing school catchment area (as per Board policy 531).

**District Programs** provide a specific education program and will normally have the entire District as a catchment area.

The Chilliwack School District is committed to providing a high standard of quality educational programs and schools for all students. Although the Board believes the neighbourhood school is central in meeting the educational needs of students, the Board recognizes and encourages the development of choice for students, parents and staff. The Board believes that district magnet schools, schools of choice and district programs, provided in a safe and caring environment will lead to greater satisfaction and student achievement.

The Board has an important role in determining the direction of education in the community. The Board can initiate and establish a District Magnet School, Schools of Choice and District Programs.

The Board anticipates that parents and/or schools may wish to propose alternative programs or schools of choice. The Superintendent will provide application protocols to initiating groups. The Board, in considering a proposal, will be guided by existing district policies, the principles in Section A and the degree to which proposals meet the criteria described in Section B. District Magnet Schools, Schools of Choice and District Programs require Board approval.

**SECTION A: Board Policy, Legislation and Position Statements**

Any Board decision with respect to Magnet Schools, Schools of Choice or District Programs will be guided by:

- The School Act
- The District Strategic Plan
- The District Education Philosophy (101 P)
- Available Resources

**SECTION B: Criteria for Evaluation**

The criteria for evaluation of a proposal will include ~~at least~~ the following:

- Objectives of the program or school
- Philosophy and mission statement
- Uniqueness of the proposal in meeting student intellectual, social or career needs that are not currently being met in other programs or schools
- Educational research supporting the proposal
- Evidence of support
- Availability of resources within the district to initiate and support the program
- Conformity with provincial curricula and where appropriate local curricula
- Commitment to and process for monitoring student achievement in relation to Ministry of Education outcomes

Cross Refs: Elementary School Capacity Review Report, October 2004  
Strategic Plan 2004-08, Admission & Choice Policy

Adopted April 26, 2005  
Reviewed  
Revised