



Policy 3.40 District Specialty Programs

The Board of Education seeks to provide many pathways for students to pursue and achieve desired outcomes. The Board supports the provision of District Specialty Programs which serve unique educational needs.

District Specialty Programs may be approved by the Board in accordance with the guidelines established.

Guidelines

1. District Specialty Programs will be assessed with the following criteria:
 - 1.1. The educational benefit of the program;
 - 1.2. The impact on existing programs and on enrollment at individual schools or across the District;
 - 1.3. The financial resources required to ensure successful implementation;
 - 1.4. The evidence of need or demand for this program;
 - 1.5. The degree to which the program reflects the goals of the Board and the Ministry of Education and Child Care;
 - 1.6. The availability of classroom space or other facilities and equipment required for the program;
 - 1.7. The availability of qualified staffing to ensure safe and successful implementation of the program;
 - 1.8. The impact on other service providers;
 - 1.9. The cost of the program to students and families.
2. For new District Specialty Programs moving forward in the process, feedback from partner groups will be solicited and considered.



3. The process for new District Specialty Program approval is as follows:
 - 3.1. Those individuals recommending the introduction of a District Specialty Program will discuss the program with the district staff who will advise them of the process for making application.
 - 3.2. District staff will review District Specialty Program proposals and consider the merit of the proposals, request additional information and/or clarification.
 - 3.3. The Superintendent will bring recommended proposals forward to the Board for approval.
4. Students and parents shall be given the opportunity of gaining sufficient program information to make informed choices.
5. Following initial approval, a District Specialty Program will be offered provided sufficient numbers of registrants make such offerings economically and educationally sound.