

POLICY 280 CHILD CARE

The Board of Education of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) recognizes that learning opportunities for children birth to five years of age contribute to the success of students during their Kindergarten to grade 12 educational experiences. The Board supports the use of district facilities for the provision of child care programs.

The use of underutilized spaces within district facilities by licensed child care providers should not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the provision of K-12 educational programs, including early learning programs, extracurricular school activities, and future K-12 community needs.

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 guardians, Indigenous community representatives, Indigenous rightsholders, Indigenous service providers, and existing child care operators.

The Board will consider, on an ongoing basis, whether child care programs are best provided by the Board, licensees other than the board, or a combination of both.

In selecting licensees other than the board to operate a child care program, the board will give special consideration to the licensee proposals to:

- a) provide inclusive child care; and,
- b) foster Indigenous reconciliation in child care.

The Board will ensure that it is operated in a manner that:

- a) 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:
 - i. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the area of education; and,
 - ii. “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
- b) is inclusive and consistent with the principles of non-discrimination set out in the British Columbia Human Rights Code.