

OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53

POLICY

No. G-11

Adopted: October 27, 2021

Amended: June, 2026

CHILD CARE

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that quality learning and care opportunities for children from birth to five years of age contribute to the success of students throughout their Kindergarten to Grade 12 educational experience.

The Board supports and promotes the use of District property for the delivery of accessible, inclusive, and high-quality child-care programs, delivered either directly by the District or through licensed third-party providers.

All child-care programs operating on Board property must comply with the *School Act*, applicable legislation, Ministerial Orders, and align with the principles of the British Columbia Early Learning Framework.

OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53

REGULATIONS

No. G-11

Adopted:

CHILD CARE

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board is committed to:

- Ensuring equitable access to child-care opportunities for families within the District.
- Supporting inclusive practices that meet the diverse needs of children and families.
- Advancing Indigenous reconciliation through culturally responsive and respectful programming.
- Engaging community partners and rightsholders in planning and decision-making.
- Ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability in the use of Board property for child-care.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND PLANNING

The Board will establish processes, outlined in Administrative Procedures, to:

- Assess community need for child-care programs on Board property on a regular basis
- Engage with interest holders, including:
 - Indigenous rightsholders and Indigenous service providers
 - Caregivers and families
 - Employee groups
 - Existing and prospective child-care operators
- Use the results of this engagement to inform planning, prioritization, and decision-making

3. USE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

The Board will:

- Annually identify appropriate and available space at each elementary school that may be suitable for child-care programs
- Determine how and when identified spaces may be used for child-care based on:
 - o Demonstrated community need
 - o Suitability of facilities
 - o Operational requirements of the school
- Ensure that the use of space for child-care aligns with District educational priorities

4. PROVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES

The Board may:

- Consider becoming a licensed child-care provider where it determines that doing so would best meet community needs and align with District priorities
- Otherwise, support the provision of services through licensed third-party operators

5. SELECTION AND RENEWAL OF LICENSEES

The Board will ensure that:

- A fair, transparent, and consistent process is used to select licensed child-care providers
- All licensees meet applicable licensing, regulatory, and District expectations
- Decisions regarding the renewal of agreements with licensees are based on:
 - o Compliance with contractual obligations
 - o Quality of program delivery
 - o Responsiveness to community needs
 - o Alignment with Board policy and priorities

6. INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION AND INCLUSION

The Board will support:

- The incorporation of Indigenous perspectives and culturally responsive approaches in child-care programs
- Partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations

- Inclusive child-care environments that support all children, including those with diverse abilities and needs

7. AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS

All child-care programs operating on Board property must be governed by written agreements that:

- Clearly define roles, responsibilities, and expectations
- Ensure compliance with all legislation, regulations, and District policies
- Address:
 - Use of facilities
 - Health, safety, and licensing requirements
 - Insurance and liability
 - Financial terms
 - Renewal and termination provisions

8. ENGAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Board will:

- Maintain ongoing engagement with community partners and rightsholders regarding child-care services on Board property.
- Use feedback and data to support continuous improvement of child-care planning and services.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The Superintendent (or designate) will establish and maintain Administrative Procedures to implement this policy, including processes for:

- Assessing community need
- Identifying and allocating space
- Selecting and evaluating licensees
- Determining renewal of agreements
- Supporting inclusive and culturally responsive programming

10. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with legislative requirements, community needs, and District priorities.