



*To nurture curiosity, resilience and joy in all*

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## 320 ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS AND SCHOOL CHOICE

As prescribed in the *School Act*, the Board of Education must provide an educational program free of charge to every student of school age resident in British Columbia and enrolled in an educational program in a school operated by the Board of Education. A student is resident in British Columbia if the student and the parent/court appointed guardian of the student are ordinarily resident in British Columbia.

“Ordinarily resident” status is defined when, on the basis of objective evidence, a person has established a regular, habitual mode of life in the community with a sufficient degree of continuity which has persisted despite temporary absences. Ordinarily resident status will be granted in accordance with the *School Act* and Ministry of Education and Child Care policy. The Superintendent may establish school boundaries to ensure that each school has the capacity to accommodate the anticipated enrollment of students in the school catchment area.

The Superintendent, or designate, will also establish Administrative Procedures to address issues related to the registration, placement, or transfer of students in schools, in accordance with the provisions of the *School Act*.

Student enrolment and school choice are guided by the following principles. The process should:

- maximize the number of students able to attend their neighbourhood school.
- enable a student or parent/guardian to register their children in the district school of their choice on a space-available basis.
- be transparent and offer stability for students and families.
- enable school and district staff to plan the allocation of resources in ways that will best accommodate demand and minimize adjustments to school organizations at the beginning of the school year.
- accommodate students to attend their neighbourhood school, however, consider circumstances where attendance at another school may be advantageous or necessary.
- allow, where possible, siblings to be admitted to the same school.
- Transportation to the school outside a student’s attendance area is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. In some cases, transportation may be provided on a space-available basis, within established routes.