

REGIONAL LEARNING CHOICES PROGRAMS

Statement of Policy

The Peel District School Board is committed to the creation, replication and maintenance of Regional Learning Choices Programs at elementary and secondary schools to support student success. The programs are grounded in the following principles;

- Student and community engagement are key elements for all schools.
- Increased program choices will provide a range of program options and pathways for students that meet their specific needs and interests.
- Equity of opportunity and access for students will be promoted through equitable and inclusive education practices.

The Regional Learning Choices Programs policy is aligned with and supports the principles and expectations of the Board's Human Rights policy ([Policy 51](#)) and the Equity and Inclusive Education policy ([Policy 54](#)). At all times, this policy should be interpreted to be consistent with the Board's policies and the *Human Rights Code*.

Guiding Principles

1. Regional Learning Choices Programs are specialized programs that are available to students within and beyond the home school boundary. Admission criteria and application process and timelines will be publicized by the Board and the school.
2. The creation, replication and maintenance of Regional Learning Choices Programs will be guided by processes outlined in Curriculum Instruction Support Services Operating Procedure 14.
3. Transportation is not provided for students in Regional Learning Choices Programs. Students who live within a school boundary and have been accepted into a Regional Learning Choices Program at this neighbourhood school will be eligible for busing only if they meet the distance criteria outlined in Policy 39 - Transportation.
4. The Board recognizes that Regional Learning Choices Programs require additional financial investments and resources to be successful and sustainable beyond the charging of student program fees.
5. The Board will ensure funds are available to assist those for whom the cost of the program fee would be a barrier to access.

Current Regional Learning Choices Programs

6. There will be a regular review of Regional Learning Choices Programs by the Regional Learning Choices Working Group. This review will include factors such as the number,

type and location of programs, their enrolment level, program fees and staffing concerns. The consolidation or closure of programs would also be considered at this time.

Creation of a new Regional Learning Choices Program

7. In order to establish a new Regional Learning Choices Program, a Principal must bring forward a proposal to the Regional Learning Choices Programs Steering Committee with the support of the Superintendent of Education. The establishment of new programs may also be initiated by the Regional Learning Choices Programs Steering Committee in its review of program needs and equity of access, with the support of the Principal and Superintendent of Education. The details of this process and application can be found in the CISS Operating Procedure 14.
8. Once a new program has been presented to and endorsed by the Regional Learning Choices Steering Committee the proposal will be presented to the Instructional Programs/Committee and to the Physical Planning and Building Committee for recommendation to the Peel District School Board for approval.

Note: Curriculum Instruction Support Services Operating Procedure 14 applies to the review of Regional Learning Choices Programs pursuant to this policy.