



Section Four: Students

421 – SANCTUARY SCHOOLS

Introduction

The Board of Education takes pride in its commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all children and families in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Objective

To uphold the Board's commitment to providing educational opportunities for all students who are ordinarily resident in the Central Okanagan, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

1. Policy

- 1.1** All school age children who are ordinarily resident in the school district, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status in Canada, are entitled to admission to school.
- 1.2** The personal information of enrolled students or their families shall not be shared with federal immigration authorities unless required by law.
- 1.3** The Board of Education shall not permit Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officials or immigration authorities to enter schools or Board facilities unless required by law.
- 1.4** All public school employees and volunteers shall be informed of this policy, and it will be communicated to requisite stakeholders.

2. Specific Directives

The Board will implement communication protocols and admission procedures in accordance with these requirements.

- 2.1** This Policy and relevant provisions of the School Act will be communicated annually to all school administrators and school office staff. Such materials will be displayed on the Board of Education and the Welcome Centre websites.
- 2.2** The Board will provide orientation and training for all staff regarding the policy in order to promote expertise and sensitivity regarding the needs of students without immigration status in Canada.



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- 2.3** The appropriate instructions for staff and public information materials concerning admission procedures will be revised to reflect the above policy. Such revisions will also be included in all training and orientation programs for staff and community agencies who have responsibilities in this area.
- 2.4** All student registration information and forms, including electronic databases, which refer to immigration status in Canada, will be deemed strictly confidential.
- 2.5** All student registration information and forms, including electronic databases, will provide clearly stated options for any family that does not wish to share proof of immigration status as a means of establishing that they are ordinarily resident in the area served by Central Okanagan Public Schools.
- 2.6** Where there is a need to verify a student's name, home address, or date of arrival in Canada, and where the usual supporting documentation is not available, the Board and schools will accept a combination of other documents outlined in the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Eligibility of Students for Operating Grant Funding Policy.
- 2.7** An appeal process will be established to hear from families who have been denied admission based on immigration status and appropriate accountability measures developed to ensure that no child who is ordinarily resident is turned away.

Date Agreed: October 13, 2022

Date Amended:

Date Reviewed:

Related Document: Ministry of Education and Child Care: K-12
Funding – Newcomer Refugees; Ministry of Education and Child
Care – Eligibility of Students for Operating Grant Funding Policy