
Purpose/Background

To provide for student and parental choice and to meet specific learning needs, divisional programs of choice may be offered in the Division. These programs are to deliver a high standard of education in a cost-efficient manner within the resources available.

Divisional programs of choice include, but are not limited to, a particular language, religion, culture, the arts, athletics, and specialized subject matters. Divisional programs of choice are those offerings which any student from across the division can apply to attend. Attendance is not limited by defined attendance areas although transportation may be limited to a select area or not provided at all. Select school(s) are designated to offer these divisional programs of choice with no student designated to the divisional program of choice. Divisional programs of choice are not a special education program.

Procedures

1. Proposal submission:
 - 1.1 After carefully considering Board Policy 18 Divisional Programs for Choice, proponents shall submit a proposal to establish a divisional program of choice to the Superintendent.
 - 1.2 The proponents for a divisional program of choice may be resident parents of RVS and/or staff of RVS.
 - 1.3 The Superintendent may delegate the review of the proposed divisional program of choice to a member of the executive team.
 - 1.4 A submission shall be made a minimum of twelve (12) months before the expected start-up date to provide adequate time for clarification, discussion, and planning.
 - 1.5 Feedback on the proposal will be provided to the originators of the programs.
2. Each divisional program of choice proposal must include, but is not limited to, the following elements:
 - 2.1 Background research as to the efficacy of the program including how the program will address program of studies in Alberta;
 - 2.2 Philosophy, objectives and vision statement;
 - 2.3 Distinguishing feature(s) of the divisional program of choice;
 - 2.4 Proposed operational budget and fees (if any);
 - 2.5 Staffing requirements to meet the divisional program of choice objective;
 - 2.6 Specific facility requirements;
 - 2.7 Proposed process to be used to measure results;
 - 2.8 Projected student population, requested geographical location and proposed ages/grades of students;
 - 2.9 Evidence that there is interest/demand for such a divisional program of choice and that it would likely be sustainable;

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- 2.10 Connection to divisional strategic plan and education plan;
 - 2.11 Consideration for transportation of students to and from the divisional program of choice (if any);
 - 2.12 Curriculum and instructional materials in addition to Alberta Education Curriculum; and
 - 2.13 School Council implications.
3. Once the proposal is deemed to be complete, the Superintendent will:
 - 3.1. Refer the proposal for comment to the Executive and other personnel as determined by the Superintendent.
 - 3.2. Refer the proposal to Alberta Education for critique (if deemed necessary).
 - 3.3. Advise the Board of receipt of the proposal and if administration supports the proposal to be advanced to the Board for consideration.
 - 3.4. If the proposal is deemed unacceptable by the Superintendent, the Superintendent will advise the proponents accordingly. The author may submit an amended proposal.
 - 3.5. If the proposal is deemed acceptable by the Superintendent, the Superintendent will arrange for the proponents to make a presentation of the proposal to the Board.
 - 3.6. The Board may reject the proposal or direct the Superintendent to bring additional information or recommendation(s) to the Board for further discussion and a decision to accept or reject the proposal.
 - 3.7. If the proposal is accepted by the Board, detailed preparation such as timelines, transportation, student recruitment, staffing and location will be carried out by the Superintendent or designate.

Reference:

- Section 3, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 32, 33, 51, 52, 53, 55, 60, 67, 197, 222 Education Act
- Guide to Education, ECS to Grade 12
- Board Policy 18 Divisional Programs of Choice