

Sanctuary Schools Policy

PREAMBLE

The Board of Education affirms the role of public education in supporting the well-being, dignity, and success of all students. Schools must be safe, inclusive, and welcoming environments where students are able to participate and learn without barriers related to their personal circumstances.

The Board of Education recognizes that students and families may experience uncertainty or vulnerability related to immigration or residency status. The purpose of this policy is to affirm that every student has the right to access public education without fear and that the district will act in accordance with its legal and moral obligations to protect student privacy, equity, and human dignity.

POLICY STATEMENT

All school-age children who are ordinarily resident within the boundaries of the district are entitled to admission to school and the provision of educational services in accordance with the School Act.

This commitment applies to students and families regardless of immigration or residency status. No child who is ordinarily resident in the district will be denied access to education based solely on immigration status.

OBJECTIVES

- Schools are expected to ensure that students can participate fully in educational programs and school life without barriers related to personal circumstances, including immigration or residency status.
- All school-age children who are ordinarily resident within the district are entitled to access public education in accordance with the School Act.
- No student who is ordinarily resident will be denied admission or access to educational services based solely on immigration or residency status.
- The District will take reasonable steps to support equitable access to education, recognizing its importance to student well-being and community inclusion.
- Personal information collected for the purposes of registration, student records, and educational programming will be used, stored, and disclosed in accordance with applicable privacy legislation, including the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- The District will not disclose personal information related to a student or their family to external parties except where legally required or permitted. Any such disclosure will be conducted in accordance with established District protocols.

Legal Reference:

School Act (RSBC 1996, c. 412)
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (RSBC 1996, c. 165)
British Columbia Human Rights Code (RSBC 1996, c. 210)
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Part I of the Constitution Act, 1982)

Adopted: June 2026