

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

POLICY 709.6

Effective Date, May 11, 2009

EDUCATION: SPECIALTY ACADEMIES

Boards of Education are permitted to establish specialty academies under Section 82.1 of the *School Act*. A specialty academy is an educational program that emphasizes a particular sport, activity or subject area and meets the prescribed criteria set out in the regulations to the *School Act*.

REGULATIONS

1. Students enrolled in a specialty academy must have available sufficient instruction to meet the general requirements for graduation. Students enrolled in specialty academies take a course or courses as a part of their graduation program that require additional learning outcomes beyond the learning outcomes required by the standard educational program.
2. The Board may levy fees to students enrolled in specialty academies. The fees will offset the costs incurred by the Board that are in addition to the costs of providing a standard educational program.
3. Before a school can offer a specialty academy, the specialty academy and the schedule of fees for the specialty academy must be approved by the School Planning Council for that school after consultation with the Parent Advisory Council.
4. The School Planning Council of the school where the specialty academy is to be offered must advise the Board of the need for the specialty academy prior to May 18, 2009, and in subsequent years, prior to February 28th of each school year.

The request to the Board for approval of a specialty academy must include:

- a) a description of the specialty academy;
- b) the course(s) required to complete the academic requirements of the specialty academy;
- c) the course hours of any specialty academy courses required in the *Specialty Academy Regulation*.
- d) confirmation of the approval of the specialty academy by the School Planning Council; and,
- e) the approved schedule of fees.

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5. Prior to May 31st of each school year, the Board must approve each new specialty academy and approve a schedule of fees for each specialty academy offered in the district and must make the schedule of fees available to the public.
6. Once the Board has granted approval for a specialty academy, subsequent approval is not required by the School Planning Council or the Board unless the specialty academy has not been offered for three consecutive school terms. An approved schedule of fees for a specialty academy is required annually in accordance with Regulations 3 and 5.