



## Administrative Procedure 221

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### SPECIALTY ACADEMIES

#### Background

Districts 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*.

#### Procedures

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 District that are in addition to the costs of providing a standard educational program.
3. The request to the Board for approval of a specialty academy must include:
  - 3.1. A description of the specialty academy.
  - 3.2. The course(s) required to complete the academic requirements of the specialty academy.
  - 3.3. The course hours of any specialty academy courses required in the *Specialty Academy Regulation*.
  - 3.4. Confirmation of the approval of the specialty academy by the Parents' Advisory Council.
  - 3.5. The approved schedule of fees.
4. Prior to May 31 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.
5. An annual review is conducted on the sustainability of all academies.

Reference: Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 8.4, 8.5, 20, 22, 23, 65, 74.1, 75, 75.1, 85 School Act  
Specialty Academy Criteria Regulation 219/08  
Collective Agreements

Adopted: December 15, 2020