

The following questions have been submitted by members of the public from the time period February 1, 2023 - February 23, 2023. Please take note, the questions have not been edited by the District.

Will there be reporting expectation from the district admin to the board so there is oversight?

Administrative Procedure 356 does not include instruction on reporting information to the Board of Education and the public. It is important to note that District administrators charged with the responsibility to report on Administrative Procedure 356 report to the Superintendent, as Administrative Procedures fall under the responsibility of the Superintendent.

What does "exceptional circumstances" mean?

The use of the phrase "exceptional circumstances" is not found in administrative procedure 356, therefore, this cannot be addressed by the District. However, the use of the phrase "unique circumstances" is found in Administrative Procedure 356. The District recognizes and acknowledges that each student and situation is unique. The District recognizes that situations are not always anticipated. As such, the District's response under this administrative procedure would be dependent on the student and the situation.

Will the school district be accessing their lawyers for legal consultation during the implementation of this policy? Will parents have the same access to legal consultation?

The District liaises with its legal professionals on all educational and operational matters as and when needed. The District is not responsible for the access of legal consultation for parents/guardians.

Is the BCTF on board with this policy and 3 day cap?

The District has not met with the BCTF as that is not part of regular processes. The District has shared this administrative procedure with employee partner group, the Langley Teachers' Association, which is a member of the BCTF. The District has shared this administrative procedure with school administrators who have distributed this information to appropriate school staff.

If an appeal process is offered, will the process be available at the stage when a school is considering suspension, or will it only come into effect once a suspension has occurred?

To clarify, the District is not using the language of suspension in Administrative Procedure 356 as referenced in the question. District staff are in the process of reviewing the addition of language related to an appeal process.

Are 3-day suspensions cumulative, i.e., if a student is suspended on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of the same week, does the District view this as a series of 1-day suspensions or a 3-day suspension?

To clarify, the District is not using the language of suspension in Administrative Procedure 356 as referenced in the question. If a student is away from school for three days under Administrative Procedure 356 and as authorized by the Principal, Director of Learning Support Services, or Designate, this period of time is three consecutive days. The District will monitor attendance data weekly to ensure that District staff are involved in supporting a return to full time attendance.

Is the District willing and able to compel teachers and school administrators to make themselves available to meet with parent(s)/caregiver(s) and District staff (possibly outside of regular working hours) during the 3-day exclusion period in order to expedite the necessary changes that would allow the child to return to school? Is the District willing to conduct meetings remotely if necessary?

District staff and school staff will work with students and their families to arrange meetings in a timely manner and within reasonable dates and times as schedules permit.

Will the District provide educational programs for suspended students in accordance with Section 85 (d) of the School Act?

To clarify, the District is not using the language of suspension in Administrative Procedure 356 as referenced in the question. The District will be providing educational programming appropriate to the student who will be away from school.

Will the District revise AP 356 to include an Intervention Process that cross-references other APs or policies as necessary (SD35 or Ministry of Education)?

The District will be reviewing all aspects of Administrative Procedure 356. Although the process to review the document by District staff has not been completed, the District does not have plans to include language regarding the Intervention Process followed by District and school staff.

Will the District commit to providing parent(s)/guardian(s) with written communication regarding the details of their child's exclusion?

The District will be reviewing the communications methods related to Administrative Procedure 356. The District is developing a written communication template for administrators to communicate with parents if Administrative Procedure 356 is used.

Will the District disclose the intended composition of each type of team? Will the District confirm that parent(s)/guardian(s) will be included in each team as appropriate and that District-based teams will engage in meaningful consultation with parent(s)/guardian(s) and outside professionals?

The District will be reviewing the suggestion to provide clarity around language for team(s) in Administrative Procedure 356.

Will the District assign quantitative parameters or otherwise attempt to better define “timely” with a view to avoiding unnecessary delays that could potentially cause avoidable harm to a child or their family?

The District will review all language in Administrative Procedure 356. District staff and school staff will work with students and their families to arrange meetings in a timely manner and within reasonable dates and times as schedules permit.