

POLICY 280 SMUDGING

Purpose

In partnership with the Pelólxw (Píł'alt), Ts'elxwéyeqw, and Semá:th tribes, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Chilliwack School District (the “District”) aims to be inclusive and culturally responsive. The District does this by integrating First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives into school planning and programming. All students are welcome to learn about First Nations, Métis, and Inuit traditions.

Background

The Board recognizes that smudging is practiced by many nations across Canada and is an important part of shared concepts and teachings based on Indigenous Worldviews.

The Board is committed to the ongoing learning that respects the cultural diversity of Indigenous students.

Guidelines

Smudging is permitted on District sites. All smudging must follow proper safety measures.

Definition

Smudging is a sacred ceremony practiced by some Indigenous communities. It involves burning one or more sacred medicines gathered from the earth.

While teachings and protocols vary by Nation and family, four medicines are commonly used:

- xpá:y (cedar)
- sage
- sweetgrass
- tobacco

Smudging has been passed down through generations. Practices may differ, reflecting the diversity of Indigenous Nations and families.

Smudging often provides time to pause, reflect, and recenter. It is a spiritual practice of cleansing, purification, and renewal. Many people use smudging to release negative thoughts or energy.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK) Policy Manual



Smudging is a respectful and inclusive practice. Non-Indigenous individuals may take part when invited, as long as they do so with respect for its cultural and spiritual meaning.

Participation is always voluntary. Anyone may choose to observe quietly or opt out at any time.

Reference:

- [Administrative Procedure 250](#): Smudging on Chilliwack School District Property
- [Form 250A](#): Smudging Request
- [Smudging Notice](#)
- [Smudging Ceremonies: Supplemental Information](#)