

Ministry of Education

Minister

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June 21, 2010

Mr. Ray Chénier
Chair
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board
210 Mead Boulevard
Espanola ON P5E 1R9

Dear Mr. Chénier,

This September, we will begin implementation of the Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program across Ontario. Early learning is one of the most important investments we can make. We are investing in our youngest students to ensure they get a head start in life. I am writing to provide information on decisions with regard to funding for extended day fee subsidies.

As identified in Bill 242, the *Full-Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010*, school boards are required to deliver extended day programs for four- and five-year-olds. Bill 242 and other legal instruments also give the government authority to enter into agreements with municipalities to administer subsidies related to the extended day program. As child care service system managers, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) will be able to administer fee subsidies for the extended day program in schools where the full-day early learning program is implemented.

The expert advice and leadership of municipalities has been critical to informing decisions related to the implementation of full-day early learning. Over the past several months, municipal representatives have been active participants on working groups, including the Early Learning Implementation Advisory Group, an Extended Day Reference Group and an Extended Day Fee Subsidy Working Group.

For 2010/11, up to \$11.97 million will be available province-wide for extended day fee subsidies. This includes the reinvestment of funding currently supporting four- and five-year-olds in child care, and a modest amount of new funding (reinvestment of up to \$10.32 million and \$1.65 million in new funding). This ministry will provide 100 percent provincial funding for extended day fee subsidies. Funding will be based on actual fees set by boards for the extended day program for the full year (CMSMs/DSSABs may also allocate a portion of the funding for municipal administration costs associated with extended day fee subsidies). This funding will help ensure that eligible children attending the extended day program will be able to access fee subsidy. Municipal staff will hear more about your specific allocation for fee subsidy funding in the near future.

I also want to take this opportunity to advise you that my ministry plans to work very closely with municipalities and the child care sector to make system-wide improvements to child care over the coming months.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support during this time of transition. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you as we move forward with the implementation of full-day early learning in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leona Dombrowsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Education

c: Consolidated Municipal Service Managers
District Social Services Administration Boards