

Ministry of Education
Early Years Division

Mowat Block, 24th floor
900 Bay St.
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation
Division de la petite enfance

Édifice Mowat, 24^e étage
900 rue Bay
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



2017: EY1

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Shannon Fuller
Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: January 26, 2017

SUBJECT: Before and After School Programs: Kindergarten – Grade 6

As you know, in 2014, the government introduced amendments to the *Education Act* to ensure the provision of before and after school care for 6-12 year olds, responding to the public commitment it made in 2011.

In May 2016 the government consulted on and introduced regulatory amendments under the *Education Act* to implement the expanded duty of school boards to ensure that before and after school programs are provided where there is sufficient demand.

This initiative builds on the success of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) and the provision of before and after school programs in FDK schools across the province. Many of your schools are already serving older children in their before and after school programs:

- Since the introduction of FDK spaces for four and five year olds in publicly funded schools have quadrupled from 15,000 in 2010-11 to almost 74,000 in 2015-16.
- There are over 125,570 child care spaces for school-aged children in publicly funded schools representing an increase of 76% since the introduction of FDK.

The expanded duty builds on these existing programs and supports efforts to address unmet demand for before and after school programs for families that receive subsidy as well as full-fee paying parents. The expanded duty is not meant to disrupt service. Viable programs currently available in schools can and should continue to operate.

To support implementation, the ministry has developed policies and guidelines for *Before and After School Programs: Kindergarten to Grade 6*. The document provides a high level overview of key legislative and regulatory provisions as well as setting out additional requirements and considerations for the delivery of these programs.

The revised regulatory framework and the attached policies and guidelines are intended to **enhance and build on existing practices** in the delivery of before and after school programs.

Key changes and provisions include:

- Beginning September 2017, school boards are required to ensure the provision of before and after school programs where there is sufficient demand for every elementary school serving students in the primary and/or junior division.
 - School boards may directly operate before and after school programs or enter into an agreement with a licensed child care centre or, an authorized recreational and skill building program for after school programs serving children in Grade 1 and up.
- School boards are required to engage with their local child care and early years service system manager(s), First Nations with a tuition agreement with the school board, parents, Indigenous organizations that serve urban indigenous communities, and existing third party providers to determine demand and viability for the delivery of these programs.
- Where a school board is seeking an exemption for a school from offering a before and/or after school program, there must be agreement from the local service system manager, and any First Nations with a tuition agreement for students of the school that a program is not viable; and
- Program requirements for before and after school programs are set out in the attached policies and guidelines.
 - This includes the requirement to include programming to support active and outdoor play

School boards will continue to report information to parents and the ministry on before and after school programs in accordance with the requirements set out in the attached policies and guidelines.

Updated workbooks and templates will be provided to your Early Years Leads to support this requirement in the coming weeks.

If you require further information please contact your regional Education Officer or Child Care Advisor.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and local leadership in supporting a seamless day for families.

Shannon Fuller

cc: Child Care and Early Years Local Service System Managers
Early Years Leads

Attachment