

Early Learning Program Update – Vol. 6

News from the Province



Ministry of Education

Full-day Kindergarten Extended Day Program

Further direction on Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten (FDK) has been published in [Memorandum EL12](#), dated December 16, 2010. Details within the Memorandum include three proposed regulatory amendments to the *Education Act* pertaining to full-day kindergarten.

During the first two phases of the full day kindergarten program (2010-2011 and 2011-2012), section 259 of the *Education Act* allowed for school boards to enter into agreements with third-party operators to provide on-site before- and/or after-school programs for children where demand exists. Peel's English-language school boards, the Peel District School Board (PDSB) and Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), entered into such agreements with three child care providers (PLASP Child Care Services, Family Day Care Services, and YMCA).

One key amendment is O.Reg. 509/10, which amends O.Reg. 225/10 to allow for **school boards to continue entering into agreements with third-party operators** to provide before- and/or after-school programs at school sites. The following conditions will apply to third-party agreements:

- Meet requirements under relevant legislation (e.g., the *Day Nurseries Act*);
- Ensure the extended day program is located on site;
- Deliver program content consistent with the Ministry's *Extended Day Program*;
- Operate programs on instructional days; and
- Investigate parental interest for programs on non-instructional days

Prior to determining the viability of an extended day program at Full-Day Kindergarten sites in Year 3 (Sept. 2012) and beyond, there is a requirement that **school boards consult with parents**, through questionnaires or other means, to collect information on local needs and interest with respect to extended day programs. Boards are also required to post their base daily fee. The viability threshold for operating extended day programs is a projected enrolment of 10 students or more in at least one part of the day (20 students with a two person staff model) and when projected enrolment cannot be reached by opening up 25% of extended day spaces to children in Grades 1 and 2.

This proposed new direction is subject to the approval of the Ontario Legislature in early 2011.

In light of this new direction from the Ministry of Education, Region of Peel staff will continue to work with stakeholders, particularly school boards and child care providers, on how to **best serve families and children** in Peel.

The Region of Peel remains committed to continue working collaboratively and positively with stakeholders to successfully implement these changes and help ensure a smooth transition into the Full-Day Kindergarten program.



Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Best Start Child and Family Centres

Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) advises plans to implement province wide community consultations in the New Year which will include 83 roundtable discussions with families led by Dr. Charles Pascal and local MPP's. MCYS advises more details to be announced in January.