

# KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

## Background

Kindergarten programs are provided as part of Early Childhood Services (ECS) programming for children in the year prior to entry into grade 1. Kindergarten programs are planned and implemented to help children achieve the expectations outlined in the Kindergarten Program Statement. The kindergarten programs form part of a continuum of educational experiences from kindergarten to grade 12. The Division, as an ECS Operator, accepts and provides programming for all children, including those with special education needs who meet eligibility criteria and for whom programming is requested.

The Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services is responsible for the administration of this administrative procedure.

## Procedures

1. As an ECS Operator, the Division assumes system administrative responsibility for budgeting, staffing, supervision, provision of facilities, attendance boundaries and the school year for its kindergartens. Where not specified otherwise in these procedures, kindergarten programs are administered in accordance with existing Division policies and procedures.
2. The Division provides access to a minimum of four hundred seventy-five (475) hours of instructional program activities in our **regular** kindergarten program. For individual children with diverse learning needs, modification to these hours based on the child's developmental level and educational needs is possible.
3. The Division provides access to a minimum of eight hundred (800) hours of instructional program activities in our **full-time** kindergarten program for each child during a school year when annual enrolment numbers are met. Our **full-time** kindergarten program is a program of choice for parents and includes a monthly fee.
4. The Principal is responsible for the administration of the school's kindergarten program.
5. Children must be five (5) years of age on or before December 31 in a school year to be eligible for entrance into a Division operated kindergarten program.
6. Opportunities are provided for parents and families to become meaningfully involved in Division kindergartens. As members of the School Council and/or through volunteering, parents are encouraged to become involved in supporting school activities through a variety of means.

Reference: Relevant Legislation & Regulation

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES PRINCIPLES**

Early Childhood Services is based on the following principles:

1. Human development is a continuous, sequential, interactive process.
2. Early childhood is a particularly significant period in human development.
3. The self-concept is important in human development.
4. Children learn through interaction with their environment.
5. Play is essential to the child's development.
6. Parents are primary agents in the child's development.
7. There is need for coordinated responsive services.

Reference: Relevant Legislation and Regulations