



POLICY: CHILD CARE FOR BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

REFERENCE NO: P-PR-04

The Greater Essex County District School Board believes that high quality early learning experiences have a significant impact on a child's development and allows increased opportunity for early identification and support. Full Day Kindergarten and before-and-after school programs are key parts of the broader provincial vision for "a system of responsive, high-quality, accessible, and increasingly integrated early years programs and services that contribute to healthy child development today and a stronger future tomorrow" (*Ontario Early Years Policy Framework, 2013*).

The Greater Essex County District School Board believes that before and after school child care enhances the services available to parents and children in a school community by providing an opportunity for a seamless day for our youngest learners and a safe and convenient environment of a before and after school program for our elementary pupils in Kindergarten to Grade 6.

The availability of before and after school child care services models a strong community partnership that supports children and their families, promoting friendship and fellowship, while reducing parental stress related to their child care needs beyond the school day. In turn, before and after school child care fosters ongoing relationships and cooperation between parents, caregivers and school staff.

Therefore, the Greater Essex County District School Board establishes the goal of having before and after school child care in each of its elementary schools where there is sufficient demand, and/or viability.