Greater Essex County District School Board

Policy: Child Care for Before and After School

Reference: 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 established the goal of having before and after school child care in each of its elementary schools where there is sufficient demand, and/or viability.

Greater Essex County District School Board

Regulation: Child Care for Before and After School

Reference: R-PR-04

Definitions
For the purpose of the Child Care Policy, Regulations and Administrative Procedures, the following definitions will apply:

School-Based Child Care:
Refers to child care provided for students aged 3.8-12 before/after school. This does not apply to full day child care programs.

Child Care Steering Committee:
A committee was established to strengthen the partnership between the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB), school based child care providers and the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) for child care in order to ensure a comprehensive and integrated system of programming for children and families.

Programs

Before/After School Programs:
Child care providers deliver programming for and supervision of school-aged students before and/or after their regular school day.

Providers

Private Child Care Operators:
A privately owned business licensed by the Ministry of Education to operate and maintain child care programs in accordance with the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014

Non Profit Child Care Operators:
An organization governed by an incorporated Board of Directors, (established and) Licensed by the Ministry of Education to operate and maintain Child Care Programs in accordance with the Child Care and Early Years Act,

1. **Establishing a Before and After School Program**
   The following steps describe the process by which an independent, licensed non-profit child care service may be provided in a school setting.

   1.1 A need for child care services is established in a community under the direction of the Superintendent responsible for child care programs through the use of a community survey.

   1.2 The results of the needs assessment are communicated to the Superintendent of Business who works collaboratively with the Early Years Lead, under the direction of Superintendent responsible for child care programs and the CMSM to determine the viability.

1.3 Once viability is determined and supported by the CMSM and the Superintendent of Business, the process to select an independent, licensed non-profit child care provider may begin.

1.4 An independent. Licensed non-profit child provider is identified through an appropriate process, as determined by the Supervisor of Purchases and Supply in consultation with the CMSM, whereby the need is communicated to agreed upon provider(s) licensed to provide such services in our region.

Once the appropriate process is complete, the Supervisor of Purchasing and Supply will issue a letter of Intent to the Successful Proponent (approved Provider). Once a signed letter of intent is received, the GECDSB will initiate the process to establish a child care license agreement with the approved Provider.

1.5 Once an approved child care provider has been chosen, the Provider will be responsible for initiating the process for the identified pace to be reviewed by the Ministry of Education to ensure that it is licensable under the provisions of the Child Care and Early Years Acts, 2014. The approved provider will be responsible for any required changes to ensure the space is licensable.

1.6 The Principal of the school, and Early Years lead will work collaboratively with the approved child care provider to ensure the alignment of the service with the learning goals and nature of the school community.

2. Admission Criteria Relating to Non Profit Providers Operating in Schools.

The Greater Essex County District School Board expects the child care operator to adhere to the following admission criteria:

2.1 Children shall be admitted to child care in the following priority order:

a. Children aged 3.8 to 12 years of age, and their siblings, who attend the school in which the child care program is situated.

b. Children aged 3.8 to 12 years of age, and their siblings, who reside in the school catchment area.

2.2 Children with identified exceptionalities shall be admitted to the child care in accordance with the necessary licensing by the Ministry of Education.

3. Private Child Care Operators

3.1 The Principal or Vice-Principal of a school where a child care site is located shall be recognized as the Greater Essex County District School Board's representative to deal with any issues related to and/or affecting the school. It is an expectation that the school administration and child care site supervisor will be in regular contact and follow the procedure and tenets as determined in the GECDSB Child Care Resource Manual.

3.2 The Child care operators assumes all financial responsibility for the operations of the child care site, including appropriate insurance coverage.

3.3 The child care operator shall consult with the school Principal and seek approval from the Manager of Facility Services with the Greater Essex County District School Board regarding renovations or changes to the physical structure of the space provided. Such changes in physical structure shall be the financial responsibility of the child care operator and shall be carried out in accordance with the appropriate safety codes, and guidance from the Facility Services staff of the Greater Essex County District School Board.

3.4 The Greater Essex County District School Board shall not be responsible for the provision of transportation beyond the current Transportation Policy.