



EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

Legal References:	<i>Education Act, section 258</i> <i>Ministry of Education Memorandum 2010:B1 Encouraging Facility Partnerships</i> <i>Ministry of Education Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework (2017)</i> <i>Child Care and Early Years Act (2014)</i>
Related References:	<i>Board Policy 1011 – Facility Partnerships</i> <i>Board Policy 3085 – Safe Welcome</i> <i>Administrative Procedure 4990 – Facility Partnerships</i>
Effective Date:	<i>May 30, 2005</i>
Revisions:	<i>May 12, 2014, September 17, 2018</i>
Reviewed:	<i>March 6, 2017, April 19, 2021</i>

1. Preamble

- 1.1 The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is committed to making it easier for families to access high-quality, inclusive early years programs in schools across Waterloo Region to support an affordable, accessible, integrated early learning and child care system. The WRDSB is committed to the inclusion of not-for-profit early learning and child care programs on the site of, adjacent to, or in each of the schools within its jurisdiction at no additional cost to the WRDSB, where possible.

2. Child Care Programs

The WRDSB develops strong partnerships with child care and early years providers to expand the delivery of child care programs co-located in schools for infants, toddlers and preschoolers recognizing that;

- 2.1 Early learning opportunities in child care make a positive contribution to school readiness and long-term educational success for many children;
- 2.2 Child care in the school setting provides a supportive and secure environment and promotes a continuum of care and learning between child care and school programs;
- 2.3 Child care in schools provides an essential support for families.

3. Before and After School Programs for School Aged Children (Including Extended Day)

Expanding before- and after-school programming for school-age children provides a seamless day for children and support families. In an effort to ensure the availability of before and after-school programs in schools, the WRDSB will;

- 3.1 Build strong partnerships between school board programs and community programs to support program coordination that will benefit students, families and communities;
- 3.2 Utilize school board facilities to accommodate programs and provide exclusive and shared-use space that meets the standards for high-quality.