



EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

Responsibility:	<i>Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer of the Board</i>
Legal References:	<u>Education Act, section 258</u> <u>Ministry of Education Memorandum 2010:B1 Encouraging Facility Partnerships</u> <u>Ministry of Education Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework (2017)</u> <u>Child Care and Early Years Act (2014)</u>
Related References:	<u>Board Policy 1011 – Facility Partnerships</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 3085 – Safe Welcome</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 4990 – Facility Partnerships</u>
Effective Date:	<i>May 30, 2005</i>
Revisions:	<i>May 12, 2014, September 17, 2018, February 12, 2024</i>
Reviewed:	<i>February 8, 2016, March 6, 2017, April 19, 2021,</i>

1. Purpose

- 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 supports the inclusion of not-for-profit early learning and child care programs in each of the schools throughout its jurisdiction (where physically possible), where the inclusion of such programs occurs at no additional cost to the WRDSB.

2. Child Care Programs

The WRDSB develops strong partnerships with child care and early years providers to expand the delivery of licensed 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 essential support for families.

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

Expanding access to licensed before- and after-school programming for school-age children provides a seamless day for children and support for 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 and community programs to support 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 programs as set out in the Child Care and Early Years Act.
- 3.3 Operate as a licensed child care provider under the Child Care and Early Years Act in order to ensure that eligible families benefit from the reduced child care fees offered through the Canada-Wide Early Learning & Child Care program.