

Toronto District School Board

Policy P.022 SCS:

Child Care in Schools

Statement

Toronto District School Board supports child care in schools as an integral component of the education system, and believes that:

1. High quality child care supports the intellectual, physical, emotional and social well-being of children.
2. Early learning opportunities in child care make a positive contribution to school readiness and long-term educational success for many children.
3. 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.
4. Families, communities, agencies and all levels of government are important partners with school boards in the provision of child care in schools.
5. Child care services in schools provides an essential support for parents/guardians and caregivers.
6. Access to regulated child care programs is necessary for student parents to achieve their educational goals.

Therefore, the Toronto District School Board is committed to:

1. Building a strong partnership between child care and school board programs in order to support curriculum and program co-ordination that will benefit students, families and communities;
2. Supporting schools, families and communities in the establishment and operation of school-based child care;
3. Working in partnership with other levels of government and the community to achieve equitable access to child care services across the city;
4. Utilizing school board facilities to accommodate child care programs and providing exclusive and shared-use space that meets the standards required for licensing, where it is available, on a cost-recovery basis;
5. Recognizing child care centres' need for security in their occupancy arrangements, and establishing terms and conditions that are fair and reasonable for the use of school board

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facilities. These arrangements will also preserve the Board's ability to accommodate and provide appropriate instructional programs for its students;

6. Providing predictability and continuity for children, families and school communities, and providing a priority in school admissions policies for children who attend school-based child care; and encouraging consistency between school board and child care admissions policies.;
7. Establishing structures and processes that will give parents, community members and child care providers opportunities to provide advice and respond to the Board's initiatives related to child care;
8. Providing appropriate resources to ensure the implementation of the Child Care in Schools Policy.