
EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Background

Early Childhood Services (ECS) refers to programming offered by school authorities prior to compulsory schooling that meets the diverse needs of young children and their families. Kindergarten is part of the ECS continuum of programs and refers specifically to the education program for children in the year prior to Grade 1.

Procedures

1. The Division will operate all Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs within the Division's schools.
2. Participation in Early Childhood Services programs is voluntary.
3. A board or, with the approval of the Minister, another person may provide an early childhood services program to a child who, as of September 1, is younger than 6 years of age, if the parent of the child requests it.
4. A board may provide an early childhood services program to a student who, as of September 1, is younger than 7 years of age if the parent of the student and the board are of the opinion that the program will benefit the student.
5. Children entering the Early Childhood Services programs will do so as outlined in. AP 210, Appendix – Ages for Funding Eligibility in ECS Programs Depending upon Status of Child.
6. Active parental participation in all aspects of the Early Childhood Services programs is supported and required.
7. School Councils are recognized as the local agency that organizes parent programs.
8. All Kindergarten programs will be staffed with a certificated teacher holding a valid Alberta Teaching Certificate.
9. All Junior Kindergarten programs will be staffed with employees who have valid Child Care certification: Child Development Assistant, Child Development Worker or Child Development Supervisor.
10. The principal will be the direct supervisor of the local classroom program.
 - 10.1 The principal will be responsible for collecting documentation and completing forms necessary to access ECS and Program Unit Funding.

- 10.2 The principals will ensure supports are in place to meet the needs of all children in Early Childhood Services programs. Supports may include access to specialists, educational assistants and specialized furniture and equipment.
- 10.3 Using all relevant assessment data, school-based learning teams, in collaboration with parents and when appropriate the student, will ensure an Instructional Support Plan (ISP) is developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated.
11. Funds will be allocated to schools based on the weighted moving averages determined by September 30 enrollments.
12. The Office of the Superintendent will report annually to the Board on Early Childhood Services programs.

Reference: Section 3,21,32,41,52,53,197,222 Education Act
Funding Manual for School Authorities
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
Standards for Special Education
Standards for the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education
Kindergarten Program Statement

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