

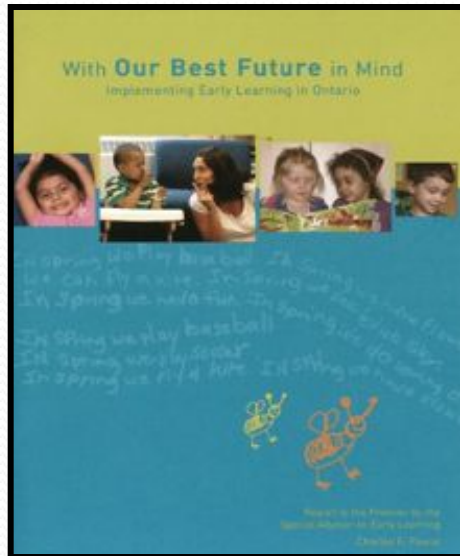


# **Early Learning Kindergarten Program: Before and After/Extended Day Program Update**

**Atkinson Task Force**  
**April 11, 2012**



# Background:



**With Our Best Future in Mind, Pascal (2009)** sets the early learning vision for Ontario that aligns with the 3 Goals of the Ministry of Education.



## **Legislative Timelines:**

**April 2010: Full-Day Early Learning Statute  
Law Amendment Act**

**May 2011: Legislations Additional  
Amendments to the Education Act;**

**June 2011: O. Regulation 221/11**

## As a result of these legislative changes:

Ministry of Education has taken on responsibility for **child care**...meaning school boards have enhanced and direct responsibilities for before and after school programs



# Background:

- Ontario School Boards must offer extended day programs for 4 and 5 year olds and include 6 and 7 year olds for viability; allows for programs for 8-12
- Can 'contract' with third party providers to deliver service, but the provider must be not-for-profit
- Providers must comply with Education legislation (Safe Schools)
- Extended Day program content must be delivered regardless of whether Board-operated or Third Party Provider operated



# Background:

Recognizing that in WRDSB, there are many schools without any licensed child care options, and this gap impacts the learning and achievement outcomes of children within our Board, staff moved forward with the implementation of Board Operated Extended Day programs:

- 4 school programs operated in 2010/11
- An additional 4 school programs in 2011/12
- Enrolment quadrupled in first two years
- Positive feedback from families, schools, policy experts

## Neighbourhood Information Sessions

### Emerging Themes:

- Family Contexts
- Reliability and Sustainability of Programs
- Program Provision
- Program Quality:
  - Inclusion
  - Health and Safety
  - Program Design
  - Program Staff
  - Program Cost
- Communication, Consultation and Decision Making

## Facilitated Meetings with Third Party Providers

- 2 Facilitated Meetings with all Third Party Providers currently operating in WRDSB schools
- 4 Key Principles established to frame discussions
- Individual meetings with each provider
- Region of Waterloo staff participated in all meetings



# Key Learnings from Neighbourhood/Third Party Meetings:

- High quality, affordable care, including for children with special needs, is valued by parents
- Parents highly respect and value relationships with existing providers
- Parents value accessibility to before and after school programs in schools
- Gaps in service should not result due to expanded Board-operated programs
- Summer programs and programs for other ages beyond 4 to 7 are necessary for families but viability can be difficult
- Providers believe that amendments are needed to the Day Nurseries Act
- Modernization of Child Care funding is needed to support infant, toddler and pre-school programs

## Priority Goals/Objectives/Guiding Principles of WRDSB:

Raise the Bar - Enhanced student achievement

Close the Gap - Reduce gaps in student achievement

Public Confidence – Earlier Parental connection to school

**High Quality Care**

**Accessibility**

**Availability**

**Affordability**

“Good child care educates, and good education cares.” (Pascal,  
2009)

# Status:

## Implementation Strategy Review – Delivery Models:

- Model 1: Blended Model
- Model 2: Hybrid Model
- Model 3: Co-operative Model
- Model 4: Customized Community Model

## Next Steps:

- Joint Communications with Parents
- Additional Facilitated meeting with Providers
- On-going individual provider meetings
- Joint Registration
- Viability report to trustees May 2012
- Investigate development of WRDSB Child Care Advisory Group



# Questions?

