

Directive: Early Childhood Education

Category: School Programming and Student Services

PREAMBLE

The *Education Act* lists the powers and responsibilities of a school board. Section 33(1) stipulates that the CSFY may establish and maintain an educational program for children who have not reached school age. The CSFY may charge tuition fees for attendance; however, no child shall be prohibited from attending such a program due to the inability of the parents or guardians to pay the fee for attendance (S.Y. 1989-90, c.25, s.33).

The CSFY believes in the importance of an early childhood education program in order to facilitate the integration of children into the school environment and to reinforce the French language and Francophone culture. The CSFY is authorized to use a portion of its funding to support preschool programs as it deems necessary.

DIRECTIVE STATEMENT

The CSFY may contribute to an early childhood education program designed to meet the needs of children deemed eligible as per its policy. The purpose of this directive is to provide standardized regulations with regard to the implementation of this type of program.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The early childhood education program shall align with the CSFY's mission.
2. Every child enrolled in the early childhood education program must meet the eligibility requirements of the CSFY admissions policy.
3. Preferably, the early childhood education program shall begin at the same time as the CSFY school year.
4. Enrolment of a child in the early childhood education program is optional.
5. The school is responsible for coordinating specialized services for any child with special needs.

6. The school principal is responsible for:
 - 6.1 Ensuring that all children enrolled in the early childhood education program are eligible in accordance with the CSFY admissions policy;
 - 6.2 Facilitating the reception of children, parents and staff into the early childhood education program;
 - 6.3 Ensuring that the early childhood education program is recognized and included as part of school life;
 - 6.4 Inviting children from the early childhood education program to age-appropriate special activities offered by the school;
 - 6.5 Coordinating at least one annual meeting between the early childhood education program and the kindergarten program;
 - 6.6 Inviting the early childhood education program to hold its open houses on the same days as the school does;
 - 6.7 Advertizing the early childhood education program through the school's monthly newsletter, website and brochure, as well as using the school's other information and advertizing outlets;
 - 6.8 Meeting with staff to coordinate logistics and oversee integration of the early childhood education program into the school, which might include use of facilities and equipment, parking, scheduling, recess breaks, etc.
 - 6.9 Inviting early childhood education staff to relevant school meetings, training and activities;
 - 6.10 Communicating to the Executive Director any issues arising between the early childhood education program and the school;
 - 6.11 Collaborating with the appropriate service providers for any special needs screenings or follow-ups.