

Administrative Procedure 210

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Background

Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs are to be available to eligible children within the Division.

Definition

Early Childhood Services programs refer to the broad, coordinated programming in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten to address the developmental needs of children before they enter Grade 1.

In ECS programs, young children participate as active partners in learning, build a set of shared experiences, and develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes that prepare them for subsequent learning.

ECS programs provide additional support for children with special needs to assist them in reaching their full learning potential.

Pre-Kindergarten means a component of the total ECS program and refers to the one (1) or two (2) year(s) of ECS programming prior to Kindergarten.

Kindergarten means a component of the total ECS program funded by Alberta Education, and refers to the year immediately prior to Grade 1.

Procedures

1. The ECS programs which operate within Division schools will function in accordance with the policies and guidelines outlined by Alberta Education.
2. Enrolment in an ECS program is voluntary.
3. A child may qualify for funded Pre-Kindergarten if they are four (4) years of age as of December 31st, and meet the Alberta Education criteria for Program Unit Funding (special education codes 41-47), a Mild or Moderate Delay (special education code 30), or ESL (grant code 301 or 303).
4. A child may qualify for funded Pre-Kindergarten if they are three (3) years of age as of December 31st, and meet the Alberta Education criteria for Program Unit Funding (special education codes 41-47).
5. A small number of placements may be offered to non-funded children for the year prior to Kindergarten.

6. Any child being enrolled in a Kindergarten program must become five (5) years of age as of December 31st in the year of their enrolment.
7. Pre-Kindergarten programs will be established at specific school sites to accommodate children with documented special needs. Part of the determining factor for deciding upon a specific school site will depend upon room and resources at the school.
8. Fees for Early Childhood Services are established as outlined in Administrative Procedure 505 - Student Fees.
9. Transportation for ECS children is in accordance with Board Policy 17 – Student Transportation Services and Administrative Procedure 561 Appendix - Transportation of Pre-K and Program Unit Funding (PUF) Students.

Reference: Section 3, 21, 32, 41, 52, 53, 197, 222 Education Act
Administrative Procedure 505 - Student Fees
Administrative Procedure 561 Appendix
Board Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters
Board Policy 17 – Student Transportation Services
Early Childhood Programming Document – Alberta Education
Early Childhood Services Regulation 87/2019
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