



**AD HOC POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 23-078**

07 December 2023

APPROVAL OF THE AMALGAMATION OF POLICY P.035.SCO EXTENDED DAY PROGRAMS AND POLICY P.059.SCO CHILD CARE PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS

Key Contact: Brett Reynolds, Associate Director, Ext: 8252

PURPOSE:

1. To approve the proposed amalgamation of [Policy P.035.SCO Extended Day Programs](#) and [Policy P.059.SCO Child Care Programs in Schools](#).

STRATEGIC LINKS:

2. The proposed amalgamation of the child care and extended day programs policies is in line with the Board's plans for the policy review and development process and supports "good governance" and "responsible resource use" as indicated in the 2023-2027 OCDSB Strategic Plan.

CONTEXT:

3. The legislative framework for the delivery of extended day and childcare programs and services has changed significantly since 2014. In 2022, the new Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement was signed by Ontario to help further the commitment to create new child care spaces, ensure accessible high-quality care, and ensure the affordability of before- and after-school programs.

The District has completed the process of licensing its early learning programs in adherence with the Ministry standards for program delivery. The agreement and the new legislative requirements warranted a review of policies [P.035.SCO, Extended Day Programs](#) and [P.059.SCO, Child Care Programs in Schools](#).

In an effort to renew and revitalize the policy review process, care and consideration for the rescission, renewal, and amalgamation of policies is at the forefront of this work. In this instance, policies P.035.SCO Extended Day Programs and P.059.SCO Child Care Programs in Schools were evaluated and their amalgamation is believed to help streamline and simplify the content for end users and the public in general.

The proposed amalgamated draft of the two policies is attached as Appendix A.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. Legislative Changes

On 28 March 2022, Ontario signed the new [Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care \(CWELCC\)](#) Agreement to lower the fees of child care for families. Historically, school boards operated programs - legislated under the *Education Act, Regulation 221/11* - that were not licensed under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA). This also applied to the District's Infant, Toddler, and Preschool Early Learning Centres (ITPs).

In order for the District to be eligible for the CWELCC Agreement and ensure that OCDSB caregivers can benefit from significant child care fee reductions, all extended day and child care programs have now been licensed under the CCEYA.

Following is a snapshot for the currently operated programs at the OCDSB (2022-2023),

- 67 Licensed Extended Day programs supporting over 4,000 children.
- 2 Licensed Early Learning Centres (Toddler (18 months) and Preschool 2,6 years)) supporting close to 100 children. 1 new licensed Early Learning Centre to open at Shingwàkons Public School that will support 49 more children.
- 8 EarlyON Child and Family Centres supporting caregivers, child care providers and children, offering programs from birth to age 6. The expected number of visits made by children: 11,000 visits. The expected number of visits by adults: 7,531 visits.
- 6 Early Learning Centers to support adult learners in English as a Second Language (ESL), Language Instruction to Newcomers to Canada (LINC), and Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs with on-site childcare. Provide care for 3,600 children.
- Child Care agreements with Third Party Operators in over 28 OCDSB Elementary Schools.

The following schools are exempt from the duty of offering a Before and After School Program as they do not meet the demand and viability criteria set out in *Ontario Regulation 129/16, s. 5 (4)*:

- Arch Street Public School
- Blossom Park Public School
- Carleton Heights Public School
- Clifford Bowey Public School
- Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education
- J.H. Putman Public School
- Queen Elizabeth Public School
- Robert E. Wilson Public School
- York Street Public School

The following schools are non-applicable as they are not Kindergarten to Grade 6 schools and have no Registered Early Childhood Educators on-site:

- Fielding Drive Public School
- Glashan Public School

- Glen Cairn Public School
- Clifford Bowey Public School
- Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education

5. Key Policy Changes

The standing policies were implemented in 2014 and served the Board well as it navigated the introduction of Child Care to the OCDSB suite of services. However, in reviewing the two standing policies in response to the legislative changes, staff was mindful of the shift the District has undergone in order to license its extended day and child care programs. In order to reduce the complexity and simplify the content for end users and the public, staff propose the amalgamation of Policy P.035.SCO Extended Day Programs and Policy P.059.SCO Child Care Programs in Schools (Appendix A) with a number of key changes, including:

- Updating the policy template.
- Migrating content that was procedural in nature to a new procedure currently under development. Some of the migrated content include:
 - The eligibility criteria of licensed non-for-profit third party partners who may operate child care programs;
 - The components of the lease agreements between the District and third party operators; and
 - Staffing requirements for extended day programs.
- A requirement for all Extended Day and Child Care Programs to be licensed under *the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA) in order to access financial support for families provided through the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) plan.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6. There are no financial or resource implications relating to the proposed amalgamation of the two policies.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

7. As a Tier 2 Policy Review, the proposed amalgamated draft (Appendix A) was posted to the District website between 8 September and 29 September 2023. The consultation with the public yielded no feedback and the input received from trustees during the Committee's discussions on 19 September 2023 has been incorporated into Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. THAT the proposed amalgamated policy P.035.SCO Extended Day and Child Care Programs, attached as Appendix A to Report 23-078, be approved; and
- B. THAT the standing policy P.059.SCO Child Care Programs in Schools, attached as Appendix B to Report 23-078, be rescinded.

Brett Reynolds
Associate Director of Education

Pino Buffone
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Amalgamated Policy

Appendix B: Policy P.059.SCO Child Care Programs in Schools