

Issue: There is a current policy in place within the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) that allows child care providers with existing relationships with the OCDSB first right of refusal for new space opening up within a school. As such, child care providers, such as our cooperative (The Westboro Village Cooperative Preschool) are unable to compete for available space in local schools. Additionally, we are aware of vacant and unused space from a former childcare program at the Churchill Alternative School, which is only a few blocks from our current location, but are unable to compete for a request for proposal (RFP), given our cooperative is not currently a provider within the OCDSB.

Remedy Sought: We are requesting this policy be abolished, and that the vacant space be opened up for an RFP process so we can compete as a potential tenant. If this space is not available for other reasons, we wish to work with the OCDSB to find suitable space in a school nearby.

About us: The Westboro Village Cooperative Preschool is a non-profit cooperative owned and operated by the parents of the children attending the preschool. Our licensed Preschool has been running in the community for over 40 years, with the dual principle that children learn best through play, exploration and inquiry, and that parent involvement is key to any child's educational success. We are proud of our programs and wonderful teaching staff, who work hard to help our children be prepared for entry into the school system.