

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Sous-ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Memorandum To:**

Directors of Education

From:George Zegarac
Deputy Minister**Date:**

June 26, 2014

Subject:Regulatory Changes to Modify the Obligation for School
Boards to Offer Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK)

I am writing to inform you that on June 26, 2014 amendments to two regulations under the *Education Act* (O. Reg. 224/10 and O. Reg. 221/11) were filed. These amendments support the full rollout of full-day kindergarten (FDK) by clarifying the obligation for school boards to offer the program.

Since the introduction of FDK in September 2010, O. Reg. 224/10 and O. Reg. 221/11 have been amended annually to address adjustments to rollout plans. With the full rollout of the program in mind, the amended regulations provide clarity for board planning and for parents and families, in advance of fall 2014, as FDK is fully rolled into the GSN.

These amendments align with the long-standing reality of school board policies around program and school attendance. Specifically, the regulatory amendments:

- Modify the obligation for school boards to offer FDK in all schools in which instruction is provided in Grade 1 (instead of every elementary school of the board in which instruction is given in some or all of the primary division). This avoids inadvertently capturing certain schools – for example those organized to serve only Grades 3 to 6.
- Exempt single track French immersion schools with a Grade 1 entry point from the obligation to offer FDK and exempt single track French immersion schools with a kindergarten entry point from the obligation to offer FDK to junior kindergarten students, if the board policy relating to single track French immersion entry points was in place as of June 26, 2014.
 - These exemptions provide for FDK offerings that are consistent with existing board policies regarding early immersion.

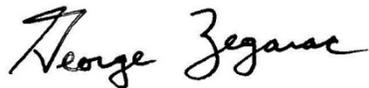
- Exempt specified elementary schools that are located beside an FDK school.
- Exempt schools that are identified in a Minister's policy or guideline, from the obligation to offer FDK due to facility or other operational issues, for a time-limited period. Specific schools, if any, would be determined on a case by case basis closer to September 2014.

These regulatory amendments build on the extensive and unprecedented efforts of the ministry, school boards, municipalities, child care operators and other partners to bring the benefits of FDK to all of Ontario's four-and five-year olds as of next September.

The amending regulations are attached and will be available shortly on the E-Laws website: www.e-laws.gov.on.ca

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to early years and child care programs and services in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Zegarac". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

George Zegarac
Deputy Minister