

Mowat Block, 24th floor
900 Bay St.
Queen's Park Toronto ON
M7A 1L2

Édifice Mowat, 24^e étage
900, rue Bay
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

2012: EL 1

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: March 2, 2012

SUBJECT: Full Day Kindergarten Class Size

I am writing to inform you about changes to Ontario Regulation 399/00, Class Size, impacting Full-Day Kindergarten classes. Specifically, the changes require school boards to organize FDK classes to an average size of 26, effective September 1, 2012.

As you are aware, the Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) program was announced in October 2009 with a class size delivery model of 26:2 (twenty-six pupils and a teacher and early childhood educator). With two qualified professionals in the room, FDK classrooms have an adult to child ratio of approximately 1:13.

The FDK funding framework and EPO contract, as well as ministry communication to school boards, have consistently reflected the intent to implement the program model of 26:2. However, the ministry is aware that there have been some challenges associated with the implementation of this model during the first two years of rollout.

While the government is committed to respecting the terms of existing collective agreements, it is important to move forward with a sustainable plan that is consistent with the announced policy direction and funding framework for the program. This is why the government recently amended O. Reg 399/00 to include s. 2.1 under *Elementary School Classes – Requirements Respecting Size*. This section provides class size provisions for full-day junior kindergarten and kindergarten, clearly identifying an average class size unit of 26 pupils.

Although changes will not be effective until September 1, 2012, the government has made these amendments now to provide boards with the information needed to finalize staffing decisions for the 2012-13 school year.

Additional administrative amendments to O. Reg 399/00 have been made to clarify the

applicability of the new requirement. The requirement to organize FDK classes to an average size of 26 applies to schools included in the roll-out schedule provided in the table of Ontario Regulation 224/10, *Full Day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten*. Consequently, a provision has been added to reflect that, as of September 1, 2014, all boards will be required to offer FDK and will be subject to the new requirement.

I would like to take this time to thank school boards for keeping the Ministry informed about the Full Day Kindergarten class size challenges you may have faced this year, and I look forward to working with you and with our stakeholders to ensure the continued success of this program.

Sincerely,

<ORIGINAL SIGNED BY>

Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Learning Division

Copy: Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards

Chief Administrative Officers
Early Learning and Child Care Advisory Group

Appendix A: Early Learning Regional Education Officers by Region

Early Learning Regional Education Officers Region	Education Officer	Contact Information
Barrie	Ana Marie Prokopich	20 Bell Farm Road, Unit #9 Barrie ON L4M 6E4 Email: anamarie.prokopich@ontario.ca Tel: 705-725-6260 or 1-888-999-9556
London	Rod Peturson	217 York Street, Suite 207 London ON N6A 5P9 Email: rod.peturson@ontario.ca Tel: 519-870-2187 or 1-800-265-4221
Ottawa	Jacques Torjman	1580 Merival Road, Suite 504 Nepean ON K2G 4B5 Email: jacques.torjman@ontario.ca Tel: 613-225-9210 x136
Sudbury/North Bay	Renee Brouillette	199 Larch Street, Suite 1103 Sudbury ON P3E 5P9 Email: renee.brouillette@ontario.ca Tel: 705-564-7281 or 1-800-461-9570
Toronto Area	Dolores Cascone	3300 Bloor Street West Sun Life Financial Centre Suite 3610 – Centre Tower Toronto, ON M8X 2X3 Email: dolores.cascone@ontario.ca Tel: 416-314-6300 or 1-800-268-5755
Toronto Corporate	Zineb Sebbane	900 Bay Street, 24 th Floor Mowat Block Toronto, ON M7A 1L2 Email: zineb.sebbane@ontario.ca Tel: 416-325-8870
Thunder Bay	Heather Exley	615 South James Street, 1st Floor Thunder Bay ON P7E 6P9 Email: heather.exley@ontario.ca Tel: 807-474-2993 or 1-800-465-5020