

Extended Day Fee Subsidy Guidelines

Full-Day Kindergarten

January 2012

Questions and Answers

Allocations and Eligibility

Q. How were the allocations to CMSMs/DSSABs determined?

A. The existing Ministry of Children and Youth Services Best Start equity allocation formula was used to distribute funds in 2010-11. It was updated with 2006 census data. Additional new funding in 2011-12 **was** distributed using a modified Best Start Equity formula as follows:

- 10% based on proportion of Year 2 full-day kindergarten (FDK) sites.
- 90% based on Best Start Equity Formula:
 - 36% based on % child population under age 6
 - 54% based on equity factors:
 - proportional low income population
 - population with education under Grade 9
 - households with no knowledge of English or French
 - geographic dispersion
 - population growth

Additional new funding in 2012-13 is being distributed using an updated modified Best Start equity formula, which allocates 10% of funding based on FDK enrolment as opposed to proportion of FDK sites. The Ministry of Education (MEDU) has also updated the formula to include 2010 demographic projections.

Q. How will CMSMs/DSSABs determine eligibility for fee subsidies in before- and after-school day programs, including approved recreation programs for children 6 to 12?

A. CMSMs/DSSABs will use the income test that applies to child care fee subsidies to determine fee subsidy eligibility for before- and after-school programs, approved recreation programs or licensed child care programs.

If the family meets the income test, the child is eligible for a fee subsidy regardless of program choice. To receive subsidies, families have the flexibility to choose between various regulated programs (specifically before- and after-school programs, approved recreation programs or licensed child care programs) that are offered across the Province.

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Fee Subsidy Management

- Q. Will CMSMs/DSSABs be able to move unused subsidy funds between child care and extended day fee subsidies? (i.e. if there are remaining child care subsidies can they be used for children in before- and after-school programs and vice versa?)**
- A. CMSMs/DSSABs have in-year flexibility to move dollars between 100% Child Care Fee Subsidies (A663) and Extended Day Fee Subsidies (A664).
- Q. How will subsidies be provided to families with children in both child care and a board-operated before- and after-school program at an FDK site?**
- A. Some subsidized families will have a child enrolled in child care and another in a board-operated before- and after-school program at a FDK school. The income tested parental contribution will be payable with respect to all the children in the family. In other words, a family receiving both types of fee subsidy will pay the same amount as if all children were in child care only, or all children were in the board-operated before- and /or after-school program only.
- Q. Some child care program fee subsidies are capped at rates lower than those for school board-operated before- and after-school programs (Extended Day) for equivalent or less hours of service. Will fee subsidies be increased to allow for equitable distribution of subsidies to children?**
- A. Fee subsidies for board-operated before- and after-school programs will be based on the fees set by school boards as prescribed by regulations under the *Education Act*. Before- and after-school fee subsidy rates for board-operated programs will not directly impact child care fee subsidy rates set by CMSMs/DSSABs.
- Q. How will before- and after-school programs at FDK sites impact the waitlist policies?**
- A. Children that are 4 and 5 years old enrolled in before- and after-school programs at FDK sites are eligible for extended day fee subsidy funding. The blended funding allocation for A663/A664 represents the notional amount for extended day fee subsidy, should there be a demand. In the event that the full allotment is not required for extended day fee subsidy, CMSMs/DSSABs may apply existing child care wait list management policies as appropriate for all children eligible, including regular child care fee subsidies for children 0 to 12. CMSMs/DSSABs are to share with school boards in their geographical areas information regarding fee subsidy availability and wait list management.

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Q. What if a child is subsidized in a before- and after-school program at an FDK site and also in child care on non-instructional days with a different provider. How should this child be tracked in OCCMS for reporting purposes?

A. Where a child is enrolled in a before- and after-school program and also requires child care on non-instructional days that is provided by a different operator, the CMSM/DSSAB should associate the ELP-ED funding type in OCCMS with both programs. This child will thus be included in the number of children receiving extended day fee subsidies on non-instructional days.

Q. A child of an Ontario Works participant who is enrolled in JK or SK may be subsidized to attend a before- and after-school program at an FDK site. Which detail code should be used to fund these children?

A. Children of Ontario Works participants who are subsidized to attend before- and after-school programs and are in JK/SK at FDK sites should be tracked using detail code A664 (Extended Day Fee Subsidies). All subsidies for JK/SK children in before- and after-school programs at FDK sites are 100% provincial with no cost sharing requirements, therefore, detail codes A400 (Ontario Works Child Care – Formal) and A401 (Ontario Works – Informal) should not be used.

Fee Subsidies and School Boards

Q. Why are there references to before- and after-school programs instead of extended day programs?

A. As a result of amendments to the *Education Act*, school boards have the option of providing programs before and after regular school hours at FDK sites in one of two ways: a) delivering programs directly using extended day powers under the *Education Act*; or b) entering into agreements with qualified third-party providers to offer child care licensed under the *Day Nurseries Act*. The term “before- and after-school programs” covers both options, whether programs are operated directly by a school board as “extended day,” or by a third party as “licensed child care.”

Q. What will the CMSM/DSSAB agreement process be with school boards?

A. CMSMs/DSSABs will enter into overall framework agreements with school boards that will cover multiple school sites for the provision of extended day fee subsidies for programs directly delivered by school boards as extended day.

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Licensed child care programs at FDK sites would have their own individual agreements with CMSMs/DSSABs.

Q. How will the subsidy allocations among pupils of various school boards be determined?

A. Where there is sufficient extended day fee subsidy funding to meet the demand, it is likely that CMSMs/DSSABs will allocate funds to school boards based on the cost of providing subsidy to children in all families who qualify based on their income. The cost of providing subsidy will depend on program fees as well as the number of children whose families qualify for full or partial subsidy. Where extended day fee subsidy funding is insufficient to meet the demand from all families who qualify, CMSMs/DSSABs will need to establish a process for allocating fee subsidies across pupils of different school boards in their geographical areas.

Q. If the board's extended day rate is too high can CMSMs/DSSABs cap the subsidy amount?

A. For board delivered extended day programs, CMSMs/DSSABs are expected to pay the board-established before- and after-school rates on behalf of subsidized children. Partial subsidies will be provided where appropriate. CMSMs/DSSABs will not charge parents any additional fees above the income tested amount with respect to children enrolled in the FDK before- and after-school program.

Q. CMSMs/DSSABs have Council approved policies to determine the fee subsidy rates they pay to child care programs (i.e. examination of budgets, average market rates etc.). Will these policies apply to the before- and after-school program or will CMSMs/DSSABs be required to have new policies approved and pay the rates set by school boards?

A. Fee subsidy rates for board delivered extended day programs will be equal to the rates set by school boards as per the Extended Day Fee Subsidy Guidelines. Some families may qualify for partial subsidies. Fee subsidies for qualifying third-party licensed child care at FDK sites may be subject to the CMSM/DSSAB regular rates.

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- Q. Are four and five year olds who are in before- and after-school programs at FDK sites under a third party agreement with the board eligible to receive extended day fee subsidies?**
- A. Yes, children in third party child care programs at FDK sites are eligible to receive extended day fee subsidies on an ongoing basis. However, these programs must be licensed under the *Day Nurseries Act* (DNA) and may be subject to any regular provisions of purchase of service agreements required by some CMSMs/DSSABs, including additional quality standards
- Q. If a board offers before- and after-school programs to children who are over 5 years of age, in order to make their program viable, are those children eligible for extended day fee subsidies or child care fee subsidies?**
- A. Children participating in before- and after-school programs who are over 5 years of age are eligible for child care fee subsidies. They would not be eligible for extended day fee subsidies as those are allocated specifically for 4 and 5 year olds.
- Q. Will four and five year olds who attend FDK with wrap around care that is independently run by the school board be eligible to receive fee subsidies?**
- A. Children enrolled in any program that is not licensed or designated as an FDK Program will not be eligible to receive child care or extended day fee subsidies. If the wrap around program is a licensed child care provider and holds a purchase of service agreement with the local CMSM/DSSAB, children who attend will be eligible to receive subsidy.

Quality Requirements

- Q. Some CMSMs/DSSABs have established additional quality standards that child care operators must meet as a condition of entering into a purchase of service agreement for fee subsidies. Will board delivered extended day programs be subject to these requirements?**
- A. School boards are government agencies which are highly regulated through the *Education Act*, regulations, guidelines and are also held publicly accountable through elected trustees. No additional standards may be required by CMSMs/DSSABs when entering into fee subsidy agreements with school boards. Both boards and third party providers must deliver the program content outlined in the Ministry's *Extended Day Program* document. Third party child care operating at FDK sites may be subject to such requirements if that is the CMSM/DSSAB policy.