

Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation
315, rue Front ouest
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

2019: EYCC3

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

Chief Administrative Officers, CMSMs and DSSABs
Directors and/or General Managers, CMSMs and DSSABs

FROM: Joshua Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

Shannon Fuller
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years and Child Care Division

DATE: April 26, 2019

SUBJECT: **Previously-Approved School-Based Child Care Capital Projects**

The government's new plan for child care will focus on making child care more affordable, creating more choice and availability for families, reducing red tape and administrative burden, improving quality, and delivering high standards of care.

The 2019 child care and early years investment will help maintain affordable, accessible child care for families across the province. In 2019, the Ministry of Education will be investing approximately \$1.7 billion in child care and early years programs.

This memo provides an update regarding funding and next steps for previously-approved school-based child care capital projects.

Strategic Approach to Investments

The ministry will continue to make capital funding available for all previously-approved school-based child care capital projects.

The ministry will provide dedicated multi-year operating funding upon opening for school-based child care capital projects previously-approved by the ministry since November 2016 that:

- have received an Approval to Proceed¹ (ATP) to tender from the ministry; or
- are in a new school and do not have an ATP; or
- are part of a major school addition/renovation project and do not have an ATP.

For all other school-based child care capital projects (i.e., stand-alone² child care capital projects that do not have an ATP) previously approved since November 2016, the CMSM or DSSAB and the affiliated school board must jointly confirm that either:

- any required operating funding for the new child care capital spaces will be managed from within the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager's (CMSM's) or District Social Services Administration Board's (DSSAB's) existing operating budget; or
- the project will not be supported and therefore will not proceed.

If the decision is made to not proceed with a previously-approved school-based child care capital project, the school board should immediately minimize and/or cease incurring any additional costs associated with the project, wherever possible. Please maintain detailed records of these costs.

Joint Confirmation Form

A Joint Confirmation – Previously-Approved School-Based Child Care Capital Projects form, due to the ministry by **August 30, 2019**, will be e-mailed from the ministry to each CMSM or DSSAB and the affiliated school board. The Joint Confirmation Form lists all school-based child care capital projects in the school board and CMSM or DSSAB catchment area and includes information for each project: number and type of child care rooms and spaces, provincial child care capital funding, and project status. Also included is information about the EarlyON Child and Family Centre portion of joint projects.

For each stand-alone child care capital project that does not have an ATP, the confirmation columns must indicate whether the project will proceed without dedicated multi-year provincial operating funding.

Two copies (Excel file and scanned with signatures) of the Joint Confirmation Form must be submitted to the ministry by **August 30, 2019**, at EYCU@ontario.ca.

Some previously-approved school-based child care capital projects may be ready to proceed in the near future, in which case a CMSM or DSSAB and the affiliated school board may agree to confirm some projects immediately and defer decisions about others

¹ The ministry has approved the school board's ATP request form which confirms that total estimated capital project costs do not exceed total funding (only required for child care capital projects greater than \$250,000).

² A school-based "stand-alone" child care capital project is one that is not part of a larger school capital project. Examples include an existing school that adds child care rooms, or an existing school that renovates excess/surplus space for child care.

to a later date (prior to August 30, 2019). If a project is deferred, school boards should immediately minimize and/or cease incurring any additional costs, wherever possible.

If the CMSM or DSSAB and affiliated school board decide to proceed with some projects without dedicated multi-year provincial child care operating funding, the ministry must receive two copies of the signed Joint Confirmation Form before an ATP can be granted.

Eligible Child Care Operators

As outlined in the EYCC13 memo in August 2018, as of September 2018 the for-profit maximum percentage threshold was removed from the 2018 Child Care Transfer Payment Agreements. Consistent with this change, effective April 1, 2019, both for-profit and not-for-profit child care operators are now eligible to operate in schools. Child care operators in schools are still required to have a purchase of service agreement with their local CMSM or DSSAB or be eligible to receive fee subsidy payments from the CMSM or DSSAB.

Additionally, prioritization of non-profit operators in other child care funding lines will also be removed to align with this direction. Local service system managers will be able to direct child care funding to licensed providers that are best positioned to meet local needs and priorities and continue to have discretion about the providers with which they enter into purchase of service agreements. Further details on these changes will be provided with the 2019 Child Care Service Agreement package which will be shared with CMSMs and DSSABs shortly.

Ministry Contacts

If you have any questions or require further information regarding the adjustment of child care operating funding for school-based child care capital projects, please contact Jeff O'Grady, Manager, Capital Policy Branch, at Jeff.OGrady@ontario.ca.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a specific school-based child care capital project, please contact your Capital Analyst directly; the contact list is available on the [Financial Analysis and Accountability Branch website](#).

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding child care, please contact your Early Years Advisor directly; the contact list is available on the [Financial Analysis and Accountability Branch website](#).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration.

Original signed by:

Original signed by:

Joshua Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

Shannon Fuller
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years and Child Care Division

Copy: Senior Business Officials
Superintendents and Managers of Facilities
Managers of Planning
Early Years Leads
Jeff O'Grady, Manager, Early Years Capital Unit, Capital Policy Branch, Capital and Business Support Division, Ministry of Education
Capital Analysts, Capital Programs Branch, Capital and Business Support Division, Ministry of Education
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