

Halifax Regional School Board Pre-Primary Update

Purpose

To provide the Governing Board with information about the implementation of the Pre-Primary Program in the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB).

Background

On July 18, 2017 the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Zach Churchill, announced that 43 locations across the province had been selected to offer a new provincial pre-primary program for four-year-olds this fall. The first year of the program will see at least 50 classes in these 43 locations. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) will continue to add pre-primary classes across the province over the next four years, eventually providing universal access for families in Nova Scotia.

The Pre-Primary Program will support the early learning and development of young children, preparing them for success as they start school and throughout life.

Content

The report contains information on the locations, registrations and staffing of this new program in the HRSB. The rationale and underlying philosophy of pre-primary will also be shared as well as a look at pre-primary in action through video.

Funding Details

N/A

Timeline

N/A

Appendices

Appendix A: Implementation of Pre-Primary in HRSB Power point

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee of the Whole accept this report for information.

Communications

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Committee of the Whole	Alison King	October 11, 2017

Contact

For further information, please contact Alison King, Director Program at aking@hrsb.ca or 902-464-2000 ext. 2567

Implementation of Pre-Primary HRSB



Pre-Primary Locations

- 14 Pre-Primary programs located in 12 schools

Pre-Primary	Number of Classrooms	Registered Children
Duncan MacMillan	1 class	12
Oyster Pond	1 class	22
Nelson Whynder	1 class	16
Harbourview	2 classes	30
South Woodside	1 class	20
Admiral Westphal	1 class	6
Colby Village	1 class	14
Saint Stephen's	1 class	15
Joseph Howe	2 classes	38
Rockingstone	1 class	20
Hillside Park	1 class	16
Sycamore Lane	1 class	19

Pre- Primary Components

Access/Eligibility

- Universal, catchment area, 4 years by Dec 31

Duration of the Program

- Based on the school year

Educator Qualifications

- Trained, ECE credential from post secondary institutions

Ratios/Group Sizes

- 1:10 up to 20 children, > 20 to a maximum of 24, a 3rd staff is required

Rationale for Pre-Primary

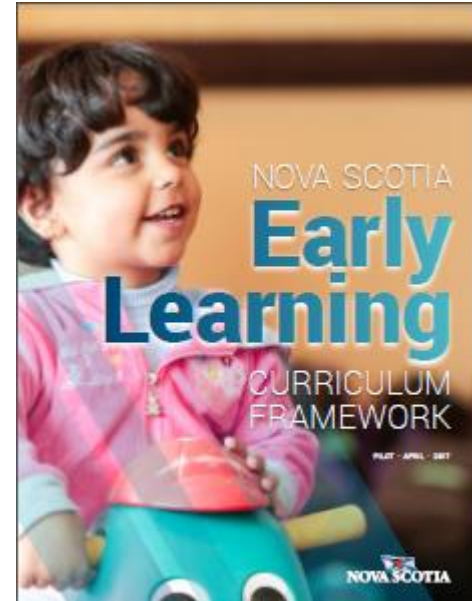
- 1 in 4 children in NS vulnerable on Early Development Instrument
- High quality programs are cost effective
- School based early learning programs levels the playing field
- Early Identification
- Transition more easily into school years



Early Learning Curriculum Framework

A guide to support early childhood educators in:

- recognizing children learn through play
- developing a child centered program
- supporting culturally responsive practice
- creating an inclusive stimulating learning environment



Philosophy of Pre-Primary

- Play Based Learning
- Relationships
- Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity
- Learning Environment
- Reflective Practice



Curious, competent, full of potential, and born with an intrinsic desire and capacity to learn

Pre-Primary in Action

