

**FACILITIES** **2300**

**CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND SERVICES** **2380**

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## **1. Rationale**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes the positive impacts high-quality early learning experiences have for a child, their family and the community. The board is committed to building strong partnerships with licensed child care operators in child care centres before and after school programs, and full day licensed school age programs during professional activity days, winter, spring and summer breaks. These partnerships support enrolment sustainability, student achievement, child and family well-being, and our communities as a whole.

## **2. Policy**

It is the policy of the SCDSB that it will collaborate with the County of Simcoe, Children Services and licensed child care operators in the provision of child care centres before and after school programs and full day licensed school age programs that align with community based Early Years priorities, and in compliance with the *Education Act*, within its jurisdiction by:

- 2.1 Considering the accommodation of full day preschool child care centres under the following conditions:
  - 2.1.1 where space in a school is available;
  - 2.1.2 there is no cost to the board;
  - 2.1.3 in collaboration with the Simcoe County Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM); and,
  - 2.1.4 where compliance with applicable legislation and regulations is met.
- 2.2 Entering into an exclusive child care facility use lease agreement with a qualified child care operator to provide full day, licensed preschool child care services in an exclusive purpose-built space within or attached to an existing school.
- 2.3 Entering into a Service Contract Agreement with a qualified child care operator to provide before and after school programs, full day licensed school age programs for professional activity days, winter, spring and summer breaks in shared spaces within schools, where viable.
- 2.4 Entering into a Summer Licenses School Age Program Service Contract Agreement with a qualified child care operator to provide child care in shared spaces in schools, where viable.

## **3. Definitions**

- 3.1 Child care centre means a purpose-built child care facility approved and financed from capital funds from the Ministry of Education as part of a new school, school addition, or renovation.
- 3.2 Before and after school program means third-party operated licensed child care before and after the school day for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 in shared classrooms and school spaces.

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- 3.3 Summer licensed school age program means child care in shared school spaces for the summer break provided by an awarded third party child care operator.
- 3.4 Qualified child care operator means a non-profit organization that meets the licensing requirements of the *Child Care and Early Years Act* and holds a Purchase or Service Agreement with the County of Simcoe, and is an approved vendor of record with the board.

#### 4. Guidelines

- 4.1 Child care centre lease agreements for exclusive-use space will provide for a full-recovery of the board's costs including custodial wages and supplies, utilities, maintenance, repairs, renovations, and include evidence of appropriate liability insurance.
- 4.2 Service Contract Agreements for before and after school programs and full day licensed school age programs for professional activity days, winter, spring and summer breaks in shared classroom spaces will provide for a full-recovery of the board's costs including custodial wages and supplies, utilities and maintenance as required by regulations, and include evidence of appropriate liability insurance.
- 4.3 At all times, the child care operator shall meet all policies, procedures, administrative and operational requirements of the board and the *Education Act* as outlined in the SCDSB Child Care Facilities and Services Handbook, and all other applicable legislation including *Child Care and Early Years Act*.
- 4.4 Child care operators and school principals will maintain open communication regarding any changes in the direction of the program, consult on any decisions which will affect the school community, and collaborate on strategies that will enhance seamlessness.
- 4.5 The SCDSB works collaboratively with the County of Simcoe, Children Services in the selection of qualified licensed third party child care operators with the County of Simcoe, Children Services being the lead agency.

#### 5. Administrative Procedures

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

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