



Adopted: 2017-01-31	Reviewed:	Amended:
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POLICY

SUBJECT: **EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIPS**

The Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) recognizes the importance of the early years and the shared responsibilities in ensuring a safe and optimal transition from home to school for our earliest learners.

The Board of Education believes that certain opportunities which provide for partnerships between the community and schools are beneficial to student success. Partnerships which enhance the preschool years and support all facets of early learning development (social, emotional, physical, creative and intellectual development) are important to the Board.

The Board defines the Early Years as 0-8 years of age in accordance with the definition of early childhood from the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC).



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REGULATIONS

SUBJECT: **EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIPS**

The Board of Education works in partnership with Early Childhood Education (ECE) committees in each geographical area of the School District (Agassiz-Harrison, Hope, Boston Bar). The superintendent or designate attends meetings and reports to the Board of Education. The Board supports the goals of the Strategic Plan developed by the ECE committees.

Guiding Principles:

The Board of Education believes in the importance of:

1.1 Accessibility of early childhood care and learning for families

Early Years Partnerships will:

- promote low-cost space to operators for program operation
- ensure that fair and discreet processes are in place to enable the attendance of preschoolers from low-income families through subsidy provided by the early childhood care operator at a rate established by the Board of Education
- monitor available space within schools for early childhood opportunities

1.2 Well-supported transitions from home to school

Early Years Partnerships will:

- support the Early Years Center models so that community services can be connected to all families, recognizing the distinct needs of Aboriginal families as well as families from culturally diverse backgrounds
- promote the integration of district and community-based events/activities/programs to help ensure supported, safe, seamless transitioning from home to school
- promote parent and community involvement in the establishment and operation of the early childhood opportunities in the Fraser-Cascade School District
- review strategies for supporting early learning at Education Committee meetings which includes representation from all educational partner groups
- include and review a vision for early learning and transition to Kindergarten in the Board of Education Strategic Plan

1.3 Early Years programs that support the health and development of the whole child

Early Years Partnerships will:

- promote research-based models and philosophies to meet diverse needs of children, family and community
- support the B.C. Early Learning Framework (co-published by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development and issued by the Early Learning Advisory Group)
- Support and promote ongoing professional learning opportunities for parents as partners, childcare providers, early childhood educators and primary teachers (K-2)
- Seek opportunities to support families through liaisons with multiple community service providers (recreation, health, dental, mental health, Aboriginal services, etc.)