



Q&As about School Selection Process for Full-Day Kindergarten

How were schools chosen for the first two years of full-day kindergarten?

For the first year (2010-11), the government asked school boards to recommend schools based on several criteria:

- **Available space** – school boards looked at which schools had classroom space available and did not require new additions or renovations.
- **Impact on existing local child care** – school boards and municipalities worked together to consider whether communities would be best served by selecting schools with existing child care programs, schools near existing licensed child care or schools in neighbourhoods where no child care is currently available for four- and five-year-olds.
- **Local need** – school boards considered the various needs of all the communities that they serve and how early learning could best support them. More than half of the schools identified are in communities with high needs.

For the second year (2011-12), the government asked school boards to consider the various needs of all the communities that they serve and recommend schools in communities that did *not* have a school in the first year. We also asked boards to prioritize schools that would require little or no construction or renovation to make them ready.

For both years, we asked boards to work with their co-terminous boards, municipalities and Best Start Networks to review their recommendations.

My school is in a high-needs area. Why doesn't it have full-day kindergarten yet?

As a universal program, we want to make sure that all communities across the province benefit from full-day kindergarten. It is not just for students in lower-income neighbourhoods. All children can benefit from the full day of learning and play and the guided supervision of a teacher and an early childhood educator.

In order to offer full-day kindergarten in September 2010, the Ministry of Education worked with boards to carefully review their recommendations and ensure they met the guidelines, such as available space, impact on existing local child care and local needs. For the second year, we asked boards to consider the various needs of all the communities that they serve and recommend schools in communities that did *not* have a school in the first year. There were also other criteria to consider, including the impact on local child care and available space.

When will my school get full-day kindergarten?

The goal is to have full-day kindergarten available in every publicly funded elementary school by 2015-16, or almost 4,000 schools. By 2011-12, approximately 800 schools will offer the program.

My school was not selected to offer full-day kindergarten. Can I send my child to another school where it is offered?

School boards determine the local catchment area for each school in their district. Each school and school board will have more specific information about their rules and requirements for attending schools outside your neighbourhood.