



March 4, 2025

Ref: 306782

Dear Board of Education Chairs:

I am writing to provide you with an update on funding for child care on school grounds pilots in your respective school districts.

Like you, I firmly believe that schools are at the heart of communities and that they offer the potential to help address the child care needs of families. Since the launch of the Child Care BC plan in 2018, the Ministry of Education and Child Care gradually introduced several child care on school ground pilot initiatives.

These pilots are referred to as the “Integration Inquiry Project”, which occurred in 3 school districts, the “Just B4” preschool offered in 24 districts, a “School Age Child Care” project in 3 districts and a “Seamless Day Kindergarten” pilot in 33 districts. These various pilot models were designed to explore the integration of education and child care through different program models and service delivery approaches. There are currently 38 of 60 school districts participating in 1 or more pilots.

The Ministry is extending funding for an additional year with the condition that districts work with the Ministry in establishing more sustainable models of child care delivery. Funding allocations will be determined based on the pilot programs the district is operating, and will be targeted to support sustainability of existing child care spaces.

The year ahead will be focused on transition, with support from the Ministry, to ensure that the existing child care spaces families depend on are operational next school year. The Ministry will also be working on government policy, and with each of these districts over the coming school year, to support continued expansion of child care on school grounds.

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I also want to share that the Ministry has been evaluating the various models. Findings have highlighted key learnings, opportunities and barriers that school districts experience when it comes to expanding child care on school grounds, particularly in terms of school-aged care. This includes specific challenges with moving from pilot models to sustainable child care programs as highlighted in the Trustee motion put forward in September 2024, Stable Operating Funding to Support Coordination of School District Child Care Spaces. All of this will be incorporated in our work over the next school year.

The Ministry is committed to continue working to expand access to school age care on school grounds and ensure continuity of care that meets the needs of children, families, and school communities.

I hope you find this information helpful. I wish your Board every success with the child care pilot projects and commend you for your leadership and collaboration in the continued success of child care initiatives in schools across the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Beare', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Beare
Minister

cc: Superintendents
Secretary Treasurers