



Let's Build Public Childcare

IT'S TIME TO CREATE AFFORDABLE FULL-DAY EARLY LEARNING AND CARE
IN B.C.'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Importance of Creating a Public System of Early Learning and Childcare

- The current market-based sector of early learning and childcare delivery in BC has resulted in 64% of children living in childcare deserts.
- A childcare system relying on public delivery is crucial to fixing the problems created by the market-based sector.
- A publicly delivered early learning and childcare system is consistent with evidence-based policymaking.
- To support the creation of such a system, it is crucial for public entities like school districts to enter and remain in the delivery of early learning and childcare services in British Columbia.

Benefits of seamless childcare

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- Improved accessibility with fewer transitions for kids, as well as enhanced and informed care that is education-focused.
 - Coordination of care and learning between before- and after-school and school day programming.
 - Additional secure and reliable childcare options in every community, especially helpful for rural and other under served communities.
 - New opportunities to recruit and retain high-quality education assistants and early childhood educators.
 - More effective delivery of cost-effective, high-quality childcare spaces.
 - Increased investment in the public school system.

Support full implementation of the \$10aDay childcare plan

- The \$10aDay plan provides a roadmap to build a childcare system that provides a safe, quality, licenced space for every child whose family wants or needs it.
- A key condition for achieving a quality, universal system of childcare is to support the growth of public delivery – a piece that relies on school districts proactively being a part of the conversation.
- The \$10aDay plan recommends that over time, school boards assume responsibility for delivering new childcare services on and off school sites.
- Childcare programs operated by external providers currently located in schools could remain there to ensure no loss of existing childcare spaces.
- Beyond that, as much as possible, school boards would deliver childcare services directly.

British Columbia is moving towards seamless school-based childcare

- School Districts in Peace River North, Cowichan Valley, Campbell River, and Nakusp have established integrated before and after school care beyond grade one.
- Campbell River has built upon their pilot and added seven new sites this school year.
- New Westminster is moving to in-house seamless care programming in partnership with their K-12 CUPE Local with programming opening in September 2024.
- Three new District-wide pilots announced by BC government in May 2024 – Nanaimo-Ladysmith, Chilliwack, and Nechako Lakes.

How is seamless childcare funded?

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- Two streams of operating funding:
 1. Child Care Operating Funding
 2. Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative
 - Child Care New Spaces Funding
 - ECE Wage Enhancement
 - Parent Fees
 - Funding for District Lead for Early Learning and Childcare

How to expand seamless school-based childcare?

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- Initiate public consultation including sending a survey out to parents. This was done early on in Campbell River and clearly demonstrated seamless before and after school care was a priority for families in the community.
 - Regularly check in with your CUPE local as plans develop.
 - Connect with colleagues in school districts with established pilots
 - Create a report on expanding before and after school childcare programs in-house. Report can outline how best to design and implement the programs.
 - Economy of scale is important to fiscal security of early learning and childcare programming.

How to expand seamless school-based childcare?

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- Consider parent's needs when developing plans – many will likely need childcare over Pro D days, spring break, and even during the summer.
 - The most common challenge we are seeing is backfilling last minute absences – ensure you have a plan prior to implementation.
 - Licencing is through the Health Authority – we have seen misunderstandings in the past
 - We are seeing childcare programming that starts up mid school-year to be much less successful in terms of enrolment than those that begin at the start of the school year.
 - Robust advertising of new programming to parents is crucial to capturing healthy enrolment numbers.



QUESTIONS?

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