

## Administrative Procedure 210 – Early Learning

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### Background

Early Childhood Services (ECS) refers to programming offered by school authorities prior to compulsory schooling that meets the diverse needs of young children and their families. Kindergarten is part of the ECS continuum of programs and refers specifically to the education program for children in the year prior to Grade 1.

Research confirms that the early years of a child's life are the most critical period in development. Early childhood development sets the course for a child's future, and shapes the brain in ways that impact lifelong learning, behaviour, health, and quality of life. Getting a positive start is key to a successful future.

Clearview Public Schools supports children in reaching emotional, social, intellectual, and physical developmental milestones in inclusive, play-based, language-rich, and literacy-rich learning environments. It supports school readiness and prepares children for their transition to Grade 1. It focuses on the identification and implementation of best practices that align with early learning pedagogy. Early Learning supports equitable opportunities for children to participate in early learning experiences, including early intervention.

### Procedures

1. The child attending an E.C.S. program will normally be younger than six (6) years of age as of September 1 in that school year.
2. Children must be five (5) on or before December 31 of that school year in order to be eligible to attend a Clearview Public School kindergarten.
3. A child with special needs may qualify for programming. Such students would be subject to required assessments and qualification for special funding.
  - 3.1 Transportation may be provided for eligible students in accordance with Division transportation policies.
  - 3.2 Kindergarten programs shall utilize an integrated play-based approach to learning which involves parents, staff and community.
4. The program shall be consistent with the ***Kindergarten Program Statement*** prescribed by Alberta Education.
5. The principal shall act as the Program Administrator for the E.C.S. programs in the school.
6. The Early Childhood Services Program will adhere to the beliefs, principals, goals and program dimensions as set out in the current Alberta Education Program Statement.

7. Enrollment in Early Childhood programs is voluntary.
8. Where ECS programs are offered by the Division, students are considered as enrolled students for budgeting purposes and as such are part of the whole school's budget process.

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Reference: Section 3, 21, 32, 41, 52, 53, 197, 222 Education Act  
Early Childhood Regulation 31/2002  
Funding Manual for School Authorities  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12  
Standards for Special Education  
Standards for the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education  
Kindergarten Program Statement

Effective: 1995-06-08

Amended: 2014-01-16; 2021-04-04