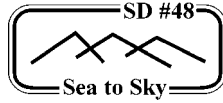


School District 48 (Sea to Sky)



January 18, 2010

Full Day and Half Day Kindergarten in September 2010 ?

The Ministry of Education will provide its universal Full Day Kindergarten throughout the province over a two year period, beginning September 2010. The Board of Education, School District 48 supports Early Learning initiatives and looks forward to the implementation of the Full Day Kindergarten program, for all students.

Funding for the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten will be provided by the Province to school districts in two phases, targeting **half** the eligible kindergarten students effective September 2010, then providing the funding for the full day program for **all** kindergarten students beginning September 2011. The Ministry provides no guidance to school districts as to how best to choose between students who, during this transition year, qualify for Full Day Kindergarten and those who will qualify for half day only. Our information indicates that the vast majority of families prefer the Full Day Kindergarten option. As you may well imagine, this two year phase-in therefore presents some dilemmas to school districts.

For September, 2010, we estimate that SD48 will enroll in total, approximately 300 kindergarten students. The Ministry of Education has offered to fund 194 Full Day Kindergarten students. The remaining approximately 106 students will be funded for a half day program only. This means not all kindergarten students will be funded for the full day program during the 2010/11 school year.

The Sea to Sky Board of Education is very concerned about the issue of equality of opportunity for all kindergarten students, during this first year of Full Day Kindergarten implementation.

The School District has very limited economic resources available to successfully support all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. The Board has very few options to consider in this year one implementation of a limited full day kindergarten in the Sea to Sky School District. It is, nevertheless, examining several scenarios, as well as communicating with the Ministry of Education to find ways of providing equal opportunities to all Kindergarten students without having to remove funding from other programs.

The Board of Education appreciates that this is an important and sensitive matter for families. More information will be made available as soon as possible, including dates for kindergarten registration.

Further information will be available at www.sd48.bc.ca as soon as these difficult decisions have been made. The Board thanks families for their patience and understanding.

For detailed information from the Ministry of Education about Full Day Kindergarten, visit http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/full_day_kindergarten.htm

Dr Rick Erickson,
Superintendent of Schools.