



Tuesday, June 29, 2010 (FINAL)

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Algoma District School Board and Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board jointly set fees for Early Learning Extended Day Program

Sault Ste. Marie, ON - On Monday June 28th, the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) and the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board (HSCDSB) jointly announced fees set for Early Learning Extended Day Programs that will be running at select schools in each school board effective September 2010.

The two school boards have determined the cost of the extended day portion for the Early Learning Program be set at \$28 per day per student or \$12 for the morning session and \$16 for the afternoon session for the 2010-2011 school year. This cost will be reviewed and adjusted each year as necessary.

In October, 2009, the Ministry of Education announced a 5-year plan to phase-in full-day learning for four and five year olds beginning September 2010. The Ministry goal is to have full-day learning in all schools across the province by 2015-2016.

The Ministry Model for Early Learning is to have a core program offered in each school day where a team made up of one certified teacher and one early childhood educator (ECE) will work side by side to deliver a full-day program. These classes would operate on a board-wide class average of 26 students, providing an average child-adult ratio of 13:1.

An extended day program may also be available before and after school. A student's participation in this would be an option of parents and guardians. Boards must offer the program where there is sufficient enrolment to make a program viable (minimum of 17 students).

Both Boards are ready and willing to provide a before and after component to our Early Learning Programs. However, in order to provide the extended day program, the Boards had to establish a rate of pay for program costs to ensure that the program is cost-recovery and does not require any Ministry funds to fund the extended day costs from regular day school programs.

Based on 20 students wishing to enroll in the program at 6 sites from Monday to Friday before and after school, the daily fee to cover costs would be \$28 /day per student. This would cover expenses such as wages for Early Childhood Educators, building expenses, supplies/materials, food/snacks and special education needs.

Parents/guardians interested in this service would need to commit to continuity in selecting the before and after program in order to develop proper scheduling of staff. The times of the program will operate from 7am to 9am (2 hours) in the morning and 3:30pm to 6:00pm in the afternoon (2.5 hours).

The rates will be posted on each Board's website along with further information for parents about sites selected.

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