

FULL-TIME PROGRAMMING FOR KINDERGARTEN

FAQ's *For Schools and Families*

1. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ATTENDING A FULL-TIME PROGRAM DURING KINDERGARTEN?

Medicine Hat Public School Division believes in the importance of building a solid foundation in the early years. To enhance our strong early childhood program, we will offer a full-time option for kindergarten aged children. This will allow all children the option to receive additional programming to support the development of early literacy, early numeracy, motor skills and social emotional growth in child centered learning environments.

2. DO ALL CHILDREN HAVE TO ATTEND A FULL-TIME PROGRAM IN KINDERGARTEN?

No, full-time programming is optional.

3. WHAT WILL IT COST FOR A KINDERGARTEN CHILD TO ATTEND FULL-TIME?

The cost is \$250 per month. This fee does not apply to children accessing supports through Program Unit Funding, they will continue to access a full-time program.

4. WHY IS THERE A COST TO ATTEND?

Alberta Education provides funding for a half time kindergarten program. Understanding the critical period of child development for young children, MHPSD has chosen to invest additional time and resources into full time kindergarten programming. The fee will support the additional staffing cost associated with running this full-time program.

5. WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PAYING MONTHLY FEES?

Fees will be collected through a pre-authorized debit form taken directly from the designated banking account on the first day of each month. The Full-time Kindergarten Payment Form will include all the necessary information for fees to be processed.

6. IS THERE A SUBSIDY AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES?

This is an educational program, so it does not qualify for the childcare subsidy. Low income families will be invited to complete an application to have fees waived if applicable. Families will be notified prior to the kindergarten start date if their application has been successful.

7. WILL A RECEIPT BE PROVIDED FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES?

A receipt will be provided to families; however, this is an educational program and is not an eligible childcare expense on income taxes.

- [Government of Canada – CRA Child Care Expenses Information](#)

8. CAN A KINDERGARTEN CHILD ACCESS THE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM?

Yes. The YMCA runs the before and after school care programs for the Medicine Hat Public School Division. They also offer flexible childcare options on school professional development days. At this time, the YMCA does not offer child care options during school breaks (Winter, February and spring break) or on statutory holidays. A subsidy program is available to families that qualify.

- [YMCA Before and After School Care Program](#)

9. HOW CAN FAMILIES REGISTER?

Families should notify the school of their intent to register for the optional full-time program for kindergarten children. Registration will be confirmed upon receipt of the full -time kindergarten payment form. Registration dates are as follows:

- **JUNE 4 – JUNE 26, 2019:** Families can visit their in-area school or school of choice to register for full-time programming. First come first served, children that are registered before **JUNE 26, 2019** will have a guaranteed spot in a full-time program in MHPSD.
- **JUNE 27 – AUGUST 26, 2019:** Families are asked to visit the MHPSD central office to register for full-time programming at 601, 1st Ave SW, Medicine Hat AB, T1A 4Y7. **Office Hours:** 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. While registration will continue over the summer, we are unable to guarantee full-time programming options after June 27, 2019. If a full-time space is available in September, families will be accommodated. ****Please note, summertime registrations will be confirmed by the end of August.**

10. ARE FAMILIES ABLE TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN AT A SCHOOL OF CHOICE?

- School of choice: Families are welcome to apply to attend any public school in our division where space is available.
 - George Davison School and Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre are at maximum capacity and will not be accepting any out of area children at this time; please contact the school for more information.
 - We prefer if kindergarten children attend their in-area school. Out of area kindergarten children may need to be redirected to their in-area school for grade one if their current school is unable to accommodate them.

11. IF A CHILD IS ALREADY REGISTERED FOR KINDERGARTEN IN THE 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR CAN THEY SWITCH TO THE FULL-TIME PROGRAMMING OPTION?

Yes.

12. IS FULL-TIME PROGRAMMING AVAILABLE AT ALL OF THE MHPSD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS?

Yes, it is our intention to provide a full-time option at all schools on a first come first served basis. If we are not able to accommodate full-time programming the in-area school, we will offer another option.

For families that are interested in exploring a school of choice please **see number 9 above**.

13. WHO WILL TEACH KINDERGARTEN?

Children will have a certificated teacher who teaches the regular half time kindergarten program. In addition, there will be an early childhood educator (ECE) assigned to work with each class for the remaining half time. The kindergarten teacher and the early childhood educator will have regularly scheduled collaboration time to support the full-time program children. This collaborative approach will offer the time for children to receive additional programming to support the development of early literacy, early numeracy, motor skills and social emotional growth in child centered learning environments.

14. WHAT IS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR?

An early childhood educator (ECE) is an individual with a certificate or diploma that specializes in early childhood development or a related field.

15. IS THERE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED FOR KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN?

School bus transportation is available to children who live within the school boundaries and qualify the distance requirement outlined.

- [MHPSD School Bus Transportation](#)

Children accessing early intervention support (Program Unit Funding or Mild Moderate) may access specialized transportation options (ELP bus) if they qualify. Specialized transportation can be arranged at the school.

16. HOW OLD DO CHILDREN HAVE TO BE TO ATTEND KINDERGARTEN?

Children need to be **five years old by February 29, 2020** to attend kindergarten in September 2019.

Please note: The kindergarten entrance age is changing for the 2020-2021 school year. In September 2020 children will have to be age 5 by December 31, 2020 to register in kindergarten based on changes in the Education Act.

17. WHAT ARE THE HOURS FOR THE FULL-TIME PROGRAM OPTION?

Each school has a unique bell schedule. Children attending the full-time program option will start and end at the same time as all other grade levels.