

Ministry of Education
Early Learning and Child Care
Implementation Branch

Ministère de l'Éducation
Direction de la mise en œuvre
des programmes
d'apprentissage et de garde des
jeunes enfants



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February 8, 2012

Dear Mrs.

Thank you for your correspondence about full-day kindergarten at West Oak Trails #5. I am pleased to reply on behalf of the Minister of Education.

This government is a strong supporter of ensuring a promising future for young children and is the prime reason why full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year olds is being phased-in across the province. In September 2010, the program was introduced in nearly 600 schools with nearly 200 more schools added this school year. In September 2012, 1,700 schools will offer the program to 49 per cent of kindergarten students in the province. Our goal is full implementation in every publicly-funded school across the province by September 2014.

To ensure fairness and equity across the province, school boards were provided with an allocation of funded pupil spaces for each year of full-day kindergarten implementation based on board enrolment information. School boards were asked to work with their coterminous boards and municipalities to select sites that met the pupil allocation limitations and other specified criteria for each year of implementation. In doing so, school boards had to carefully consider the needs of all school communities across their system and related construction requirements.

Unfortunately, West Oak Trails #5 was not put forth by Halton Catholic District School Board for Ministry consideration during the site selection process for the 2012-13 school year. As the school board is already significantly over its pupil allocation in the first two years of implementation, the Ministry is unable to approve additional sites for full-day kindergarten in Year 3. The board was provided an option to either consider the addition of West Oak Trails #5 for the 2013-14 school year, provided their pupil allocation permits, or implement the program in the 2014-15 school year. These options remain a decision of the school board.

This government understands the need for such a program in all communities and that is why we have taken great care to ensure a clear, consistent and measured approach to implementation across the province. We look forward to a future where full-day kindergarten is a foundational program for all four- and five-year olds at every publicly-funded school in Ontario.

For more information about full-day kindergarten and program implementation, please visit our website at www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Musson".

Pam Musson
Director, Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Branch