



## **Ministry Directives for Full-Time Four-Year-Old Kindergarten: 2021-2022**

### **1. Number of students per class**

- As is the case for kindergarten for 5-year-olds, as well as for elementary and secondary schools, the rules governing the formation of full-time four-year-old kindergarten student groups (maximum number and average number of students per teacher) are those stipulated in the provincial agreements for teachers signed by the employer's negotiating committees for the school service centres or school boards and the union federations of teachers concerned.
  - A full-time kindergarten class for 4-year-olds must include at least **six** 4-year-old students.
  - The maximum number of children per group is the one set out in the collective agreement, i.e., 17 or **16 for disadvantaged areas**.
  - The minimum number to open a class is **six children** of four years old.
- **\*Exceptionally**, full-time 4-year-old kindergarten students may be schooled in a **multi-program class** if that class is composed of at least six students and meets one of the following criteria:
  - it includes between **three and five** 4-year-old students;
  - it includes **more than five** 4-year-old students and **fewer than six** 5-year-old students.

\*This **exceptional measure** should be used to open a class that could not be opened otherwise. It should not be used to facilitate school organization or to prevent the movement of surplus 5-year-olds to another school.

- The maximum number of children per multi-program group is 14 or **13 for disadvantaged areas**.

## 2. Selection of school

- The full-time kindergarten classes for 4-year-olds granted by the Minister for 2021-2022 are created in schools selected by the school service centres or school boards after consultation with the governing board (*Education Act, s. 37.2*).
- Full-time kindergarten classes for 4-year-olds must not be opened to the detriment of spaces that are useful and necessary to the schooling or proper operation of the school (library, computer laboratory, resource class, daycare room, etc.).
- The room selected for a full-time kindergarten class for four-year-olds must comply with the guidelines recommended by the Ministère, i.e., it must have a floor area of 60 m<sup>2</sup> to 70 m<sup>2</sup> and must have services (cloakroom and toilets) nearby.

## 3. Student registration criteria

- The student must be 4 years of age before October 1, 2021, and the child's parents must apply for registration.
- The school service centre or school board may set additional registration criteria when the number of applications for registration exceeds the number of places available.
- There are **no exceptions** that would allow a 3-year-old child to register for full-time kindergarten for 4-year-olds.

## 4. Additional resource

- An additional resource person specializing in the development of preschool children must be present in the classroom for half the time in every full-time kindergarten class for 4-year-olds to **assist/support the teacher**.
- This specialized resource person could be a **special education technician** or a **child-care technician**.
- This person should not be used to accompany a student with a disability, to support another group of students or a school activity, or to replace a complementary service. **The mandate to assist/support the teacher must be respected.**

## 5. Program of activities

- The activity program shall be the new preschool education cycle program which consists of three orientations:

- [New Preschool Cycle Program](#)
- [Learn through play, Observation of the child's progress, Classroom organization](#)

## 6. Grade repetition

- Full-time kindergarten for 4-year-olds **cannot** be repeated.

## 7. Activities for Parents

- The parental component still consists of organizing **ten meetings** for parents whose child is in full-time four-year-old kindergarten.
- These meetings are **not** intended to be the responsibility of the teacher (see *Guide to Support the Parent Component* document), who is already responsible for his/her class. There is **no prescribed time** for these meetings.