

# **SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

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*Section*                    PROGRAM

*Policy Name*            KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

604

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## **POLICY**

As per the Education Act, Superior-Greenstone District School Board offers a full day early learning program for two years in every elementary school.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **1.0 Early Learning Eligibility**

Any child may register when he/she has attained his/her fourth (4th) birthday by December 31 of that calendar year.

### **2.0 Flexible Programming**

Participation in the Early Learning program is flexible. The Kindergarten Program is a two year program that honours the uniqueness and individual needs of every child. Children develop at different rates and in different ways; as such, schools and families/caregivers work together to determine what is in the best interests of students who may be experiencing challenges transitioning into school.

### **3.0 Goals of the Full Day Program**

- Developmentally appropriate programming to meet the varying experiences, backgrounds, abilities, and needs of all children
- Purposeful play as the main vehicle to promote all aspects of learning
- Creating healthy learning environments that are safe, secure, stimulating and thoughtfully planned with the child in mind
- Encouraging learning through exploring, playing, talking, risk-taking, problem solving and making choices
- Using a variety of instructional strategies with the whole class, small groups and individuals
- Providing integrated experiences that build a strong foundation for literacy and numeracy development
- Ongoing, authentic assessment practices to inform programming and improve learning
- Ensuring a smoother transition into Grade 1
- Welcoming parents and caregivers as valued partners in their children's education
- Fostering partnerships between home, school, early learning partners and the larger community

#### **4.0 Early Learning Partnerships**

- Redefining “school” as hubs of learning for children beginning at birth.
- Create a comprehensive system to maximize the mutual sharing of facilities, equipment and resources.
- Schools and early learning centers will work collaboratively to facilitate the transition of students into early learning programs.

#### **5.0 Educator Teams**

An educator team, comprised of a designated early childhood educator and a teacher, is required for Kindergarten classrooms where there are 16 or more Year One and Year Two Kindergarten students.