

Questions about Preschool Education

Preschool teaching time is less than Elementary teaching time. How does that affect preschool children?

Teaching time at elementary has gone up from 23h30 to 25 hours a week. Even though pre-school time was not increased, this change has a direct impact on K children since they often now also have de facto increased school presence time.

Interpretations and solution examples:

A legal opinion given by Mrs. Brochu, régime pédagogique, MELS:

"If a school (teacher Kindergarten team) decided to offer 25h per week instead of 23h30, the children could attend school for 172 days instead of 180 because they will have done the equivalent of 180 days in terms of time."

NOTE: There is money available to transport children at separate bus times or to ensure supervision (at School Board's discretion). This is part of the budgetary rules of the MELS.

Each school board is implementing its own solutions. For example:

- Giving the children time with a specialist: music, gym, etc.
- Ending the school year sooner to make up for the over-time.
- Giving one day "off" to students every month to compensate for the 18 extra minutes per day. Teachers would still need to be present, but it would not be in class time and could be used for team planning. During this day, children coming to school would be under the care of an animator or another educator (EX: day care personnel)

Questions raised:

The main issue some solutions raise is whether the time spent in school, when not class time, constitutes "an educational service" since it is the mandate of the school to offer such services. Is school time spent in the company of a day care person "an educational service"?

The consensus of the group was that we must be vigilant to ensure quality educational services to the children by working with the day care personnel to help them plan their activities.

Related resources

[Guide for developing activity programs for school daycare services - A flexible, practical tool](#)

[Guide pour l'élaboration du programme d'activités du service de garde en milieu scolaire : un outil souple et pratique.](#)

[Outil d'autoévaluation pour améliorer la qualité du service de garde en milieu scolaire](#)

This article is a summary of information received from the head of the MELS "Comité national du préscolaire", Christiane Bourdages-Simpson, and of the discussions that followed. Please refer to your school or school board policies to find out how this is being implemented in your area