

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Ms. McLean, Minister of Education

1. On [date], [MLA]
- asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) [page numbers] of *Hansard*
 - submitted the following written question – WQ No. #
 - gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. #

RE: Ministerial Statement Early learning and childcare programs on October 20 – Questions regarding Early Kindergarten

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with Currie Dixon, Member for Copperbelt North on October 20, 2022 related to:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bill No. # | <input type="checkbox"/> Second Reading <input type="checkbox"/> Third Reading |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee of the Whole: [Vote] |
| Motion No. #
Childcare | RE: Ministerial Statement – Early learning and |
| at page(s) 2312 of <i>Hansard</i> . | |

The response is as follows:

Can the Minister tell us when we can expect K4 will be established in Watson Lake and Dawson City? Have the issues that have been raised by the school community in Dawson about this been addressed, and if so, can the minister explain what has been done?

Response:

For the 2022-23 school year, all Yukon rural schools except Robert Service School in Dawson offer optional Early Kindergarten programming, including Watson Lake who is now part of the new First Nation School Board.

Discussions continue with partners in the community of Dawson City on the future of Early Kindergarten.

In respect of the 17.7 agreement, the Department of Education is in regular discussions with Tr'ondek Hwech'in (TH) First Nation in Dawson City regarding Early Kindergarten.

YAEP has raised concerns about early kindergarten ratios (teachers to students) being different from ratios in early learning ratios or in daycare settings, so can the Minister please explain how that concern has been addressed?

Response:

We meet regularly with the Yukon Association of Educational Professionals (YAEP) on the Early Kindergarten Program Policy which will be reviewed this school year.

Early Kindergarten follows the same class size maximums (18 students per 1 Teacher) as outlined in YAEP collective agreement for Kindergarten.

November 2, 2022
Date

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Signature

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When more student support is required, Early Kindergarten classrooms also have the support of an Educational Assistance and/or an Early Child Therapy Assistant (ECTA).

Can the minister provide an update on the current teacher to student ratio in the K4 programs in rural Yukon?

The largest current ratio of teacher: students in a stand alone Early Kindergarten class is 1:10. This classroom also has 1.5 Early Childhood Therapy Assistants.

The largest current ratio of teacher:students in a combined Early K and K is 1:12 with 6 EK students and 6 K students in the classroom.

Question the commitment to the investigation the future and limitation of K4 program in Whitehorse. What is the progress on that?

Response:

In the longer term, we will explore the feasibility of offering Early Kindergarten programming at schools in Whitehorse.

November 2, 2022
Date

[Signature]
Signature