MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Jim Grieve
     Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: March 2, 2012

SUBJECT: Full Day Kindergarten Class Size

I am writing to inform you about changes to Ontario Regulation 399/00, Class Size, impacting Full-Day Kindergarten classes. Specifically, the changes require school boards to organize FDK classes to an average size of 26, effective September 1, 2012.

As you are aware, the Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) program was announced in October 2009 with a class size delivery model of 26:2 (twenty-six pupils and a teacher and early childhood educator). With two qualified professionals in the room, FDK classrooms have an adult to child ratio of approximately 1:13.

The FDK funding framework and EPO contract, as well as ministry communication to school boards, have consistently reflected the intent to implement the program model of 26:2. However, the ministry is aware that there have been some challenges associated with the implementation of this model during the first two years of rollout.

While the government is committed to respecting the terms of existing collective agreements, it is important to move forward with a sustainable plan that is consistent with the announced policy direction and funding framework for the program. This is why the government recently amended O. Reg 399/00 to include s. 2.1 under Elementary School Classes – Requirements Respecting Size. This section provides class size provisions for full-day junior kindergarten and kindergarten, clearly identifying an average class size unit of 26 pupils.

Although changes will not be effective until September 1, 2012, the government has made these amendments now to provide boards with the information needed to finalize staffing decisions for the 2012-13 school year.

Additional administrative amendments to O. Reg 399/00 have been made to clarify the
applicability of the new requirement. The requirement to organize FDK classes to an average size of 26 applies to schools included in the roll-out schedule provided in the table of Ontario Regulation 224/10, *Full Day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten*. Consequently, a provision has been added to reflect that, as of September 1, 2014, all boards will be required to offer FDK and will be subject to the new requirement.

I would like to take this time to thank school boards for keeping the Ministry informed about the Full Day Kindergarten class size challenges you may have faced this year, and I look forward to working with you and with our stakeholders to ensure the continued success of this program.

Sincerely,

<ORIGINAL SIGNED BY>

Jim Grieve  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Learning Division

Copy: Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards  
Chief Administrative Officers  
Early Learning and Child Care Advisory Group
## Appendix A: Early Learning Regional Education Officers by Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Learning Regional Education Officers Region</th>
<th>Education Officer</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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| Barrie                                          | Ana Marie Prokopich | 20 Bell Farm Road, Unit #9  
Barrie ON L4M 6E4  
Email: anamarie.prokopich@ontario.ca  
Tel: 705-725-6260 or 1-888-999-9556 |                                                                                                                                                      |
| London                                          | Rod Peturson        | 217 York Street, Suite 207  
London ON N6A 5P9  
Email: rod.peturson@ontario.ca  
Tel: 519-870-2187 or 1-800-265-4221 |                                                                                                                                                      |
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Nepean ON K2G 4B5  
Email: jacques.torjman@ontario.ca  
Tel: 613-225-9210 x136 |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sudbury/North Bay                               | Renee Brouillette   | 199 Larch Street, Suite 1103  
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Email: renee.brouillette@ontario.ca  
Tel: 705-564-7281 or 1-800-461-9570 |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Toronto Area                                    | Dolores Cascone     | 3300 Bloor Street West  
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| Toronto Corporate                               | Zineb Sebbane       | 900 Bay Street, 24th Floor  
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Email: zineb.sebbane@ontario.ca  
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| Thunder Bay                                     | Heather Exley       | 615 South James Street, 1st Floor  
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