

## Questions about Preschool Education

### Are teachers allowed to plan a progressive entry for kindergarten students?

Provisions that allow implementation of progressive entry at the beginning of the Preschool year are now included (in annex) in the teachers' collective agreement. The main objective of progressive entry is to help the children bond with their teacher.

In 1997, when full-time kindergarten was introduced, the MEQ authorised progressive integration in order to accommodate those school boards whose kindergarten facilities had not yet been fully set up. This led to up to 20 days of gradual integration in some schools.

In May 2010, amendments were made to section 18 of the Basic School Regulation in order to allow schools to implement a gradual entry in preschool while meeting the requirements regarding number of hours and number of days as set out in s. 16 and 17.

In implementing a welcoming service, school boards and schools must nevertheless make sure that the applicable provisions are respected, notably those set out in these two sections of the "Basic School Regulation for Pre-school, Elementary and Secondary Education" with regard to the minimum number of days required in the school year and the number of hours in the week.

Moreover, provisions that allow implementation of progressive entry at the beginning of the Pre-School year are now included (in Appendix 23) of the teachers' collective agreement. The main objective of progressive entry is to help the children bond with their teacher. The committee members suggested that this appendix to the collective agreement be attached to the school success plan.

### PROGRESSIVE ENTRY OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS

"After consulting the union, the board shall determine the terms and conditions for organizing the progressive entry of preschool students over three days, taking into account the characteristics of each milieu.

The preceding paragraph shall not have the effect of preventing the board from determining terms and conditions aimed at spreading the progressive entry over a period of more than three days.

However, a progressive entry shall not be imposed in cases where the number of students in a group is less than half of the average applicable under clause 8-4.02."

### Related resources

\* Basic School Regulation for Pre-school, Elementary and Secondary Education

<http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/l-13.3,%20r.%208>

\* Collective Agreement 2015 - 2020

<http://www.qpat-apeq.qc.ca/images/stories/pdfs/2010-2015%20qpat%20collective%20agreement.pdf>

*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.*