



Inclusion

OACRS Vision

- That ALL children and youth will have the best opportunity to reach their potential

OACRS Goals

To ensure that children with special needs reach their full potential, we are creating a strong, stable system of supports, that is:

- Child and family-centred;
- Working in inter-professional teams to ensure best outcomes for children and youth ;
- Fully integrated with partners so that any door is the 'right' door to access service;
- Effective and efficient in order to serve more children and youth;
- Forward thinking and innovative clinically and organizationally.

Current Opportunity

Ontario's commitment is that all four and five year olds to have access Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) by 2015. If we do not plan to welcome ALL children into their schools, those with special needs will face barriers and unintended consequences. They will:

- Be left behind in child care settings;
- Face additional challenges socially;
- Have a reduced likelihood of achieving good education outcomes;
- Potentially experience negative health effects.

Solution

1. OACRS proposes that the government allocate **1% of the FDK funding envelope to a designated line item for the provision of specialized supports** so that children with special needs can be fully supported. This investment will deliver effective transitions and improved long term **health and education outcomes for children with special needs.**
2. At full implementation, a targeted \$15 million could be supplemented by the transfer of rehabilitation funding currently residing in the many envelopes across our partner Ministries.

Results

- Children with disabilities will be better integrated with their peers;
- Academic outcomes are significantly improved with the 'right start';
- More children will be identified and receive the appropriate services in a timely manner;
- With the right partnerships and commitments, children with special needs will be able to benefit from all FDK has to offer.

For further information:

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