

## **POLICY 660: Child Care Providers in Schools**

Quality accessible and affordable child care and early learning programs provide significant social and economic benefits for the community. Research shows that quality childcare and early learning programs have a direct relationship to successful transitions to kindergarten, literacy development, poverty reduction, and community engagement.

The funding and regulation of licensed child care is primarily a provincial government responsibility, and the Board recognizes that its primary obligation is to provide school age educational programs; however, the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) believes that the District, along with community partners, can play an important role in planning, developing and coordinating childcare for children in our region.

The District shall not directly provide licensed child care, however it is supportive of thirdparties that deliver quality, accessible and affordable child care in District facilities. Schools shall release and/or share available space on a cost-recovery basis for that purpose, and, where possible, new school construction or renovations will incorporate designated and/or shared space for child care services.