

Yukon Education Guidelines for Junior Kindergarten (K4) In Rural Schools

Effective: October 1, 2005

Preamble

The purpose of the Junior Kindergarten program is to enhance language development, learning how-to-learn behaviours, group social skills, and pre-literacy and numeracy skills. The objective is to provide an opportunity for students to attend the equivalent of a full-time Kindergarten program spread over two years.

Junior Kindergarten (K4) may be offered in rural Yukon schools where the combined student enrolment in Junior and Senior Kindergarten (K5) does not necessitate an increase in staff. Combining K4 and K5 allows the school to meet the goals and objectives of early childhood education within a discrete environment. Recognizing that enrolment in Kindergarten is a parental choice, parents should be encouraged that once enrolled, there is a commitment to regular attendance.

Age of Entry

Students are eligible to enroll in Junior Kindergarten in the school year in which they are 3 years and 8 months on or before September 1st. A birth certificate is required upon registration.

Minimum Operating Requirements

The Department requires a minimum of 7 students in total (K4 plus K 5) to operate a separate Kindergarten class, and will depend on the constraints on the school staff allocation.

Maximum Operating Requirements

The recommended maximum class size for a combined K4 and K5 program is 18. When the combined number of K4 and K5 students exceeds 18, the oldest K4 students, as determined by their date of birth, may enter the program until the recommended maximum number is reached.

Attendance

It is recommended that all K4 students enter the program on a daily basis during the first two weeks of school.

Parents who choose to have their children attend on a part-time basis must work out a regular and consistent schedule with the school administrator.

Every part-time K4 student should be able to attend a minimum of three days a week. In all cases, however, K4 students should be attending every day by January 1st.

Parents have an option to request that students enter the program after the student's fourth birthday between September and December, based on consultation with the school administration.

Special Needs

Special Needs assistance is not provided by the Department of Education for K4 students. The Child Development Centre (CDC) provides support in the classroom when parents have accessed the CDC community outreach services. Teachers must work in close collaboration with Child Development Centre program assistants and other CDC support staff.

Programming

Where half-day K4 students are part of a full-day K5 program, consideration must be given to the scheduling of activities to ensure a balanced early childhood education program which includes pre-literacy and numeracy activities and the opportunity to participate fully in learning centres.

Other Considerations

K4 students must be toilet-trained before entry into the program will be approved. Exceptions will be made for Special Needs students who are assisted by a Child Development Centre program assistant.