

Before and After School Child Care in AMDSB

December 9, 2025



Avon Maitland District School Board

Engage, Inspire, Innovate... Always Learning

What are the Legislative Requirements?

School boards are required to ensure the provision of a before and after school program for every elementary school serving students in the primary and/or junior division (for example, from Kindergarten to Grade 6) where there is sufficient demand and/or viability.

What are the Program Options?

Before and After Program Options, as per the Ministry of Education Guidelines

- Third Party
- Recreation Programs by qualified organizations
- Board provided

What is the annual Participation Viability Process?

- Parents are asked to complete survey (Oct-Dec) to determine interest/need for the following school year.
- Results are shared with the appropriate third party providers, as well as shared on the website, so that they can contact the families who responded with interest. This determines if there are enough interested families to offer the program.
- Third party providers confirm by March 31 if they will be offering before and after school programs at their school locations.
- Finalized list of schools where before and after programming will be offered for the upcoming school year is shared with school communities and posted on the website (amdsb.ca/apps/pages/beforeafter) - no later than April 30.

What are the current programs?

At AMDSB, we have the following:

- 16 schools with Before & After programming;
 - 1 school is serviced by a licensed off site program; and,
 - 1 school is serviced by an off site recreation program.
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- 4 schools where there was no participation viability per the 25/26 process
 - 7 schools where there is no provider, where the 25/26 participation viability survey indicated **potential** interest.

This information is shared annually on the board website:

<https://www.amdsb.ca/apps/pages/beforeafter>

How do we engage Third Party Providers?

Staff actively engage third-party providers for areas of need in a number of ways:

- Meetings with the Huron and Perth Service System Managers from Huron and Perth counties to help find third-party providers.
- Media releases, direct email to parents, newsletter inserts, etc.
- When there is a withdrawal of services (as in September 2025), we issue the above, discuss with our coterminous board (if applicable) and also reach out to the Municipalities, to see if they would consider offering a Recreational program.

What impacts the Fiscal Viability of a Board Run program?

- Cost Recovery
- Staffing
- Rural and AMDSB context

What are possible next steps?

Options for trustees to consider:

1. Hire an external consultant to complete a business case to reaffirm feasibility of taking on child care as a district;
2. Continue to search for third party providers at sites where viability exists;
3. Allocate funds through the 2026-2027 budget process to create a longer range strategy for child care in AMDSB; or,
4. Work with municipal partners to explore the possibility of opening recreation programs in areas where before and after school care does not exist.

Consideration #1

Hire an external consultant to complete a business case to determine feasibility of taking on child care as a district, such as central costs of human resources, business structures and capacity.

Opportunities:

- Expert, outside examination of feasibility
- Provide information on budget and staffing implications, timelines, and recommendations for implementation to guide any potential next steps

Challenges:

- Unplanned budgetary expense
- Time to receive business case
- Does not address immediate needs

Consideration #2

Continue to search for third party providers at sites where participation viability exists

Opportunities:

- Allows the board to maintain focus on current priorities
- Continue to partner with third-party providers
- Minimizes budget impact

Challenges:

- Not all communities currently have access to third-party providers

Consideration #3

Allocate funds through the 2026-2027 budget process to create a longer term strategy for developing partnerships around child care in Huron/Perth.

Opportunities:

- Time to gather additional data
- Allows for further exploration of potential solutions to address needs
- Include initiative as part of the 2026-2027 budget process

Challenges:

- Does not meet the immediate needs of the community
- Additional budgetary expense when a balanced budget is required
- Redirects resources away from current board priorities

Consideration #4

Work with municipal partners to explore the possibility of opening recreation programs in areas where before and after school care does not exist

Opportunities:

- Build upon the successful municipality run recreational program currently in place

Challenges:

- Several municipalities are not interested in taking on recreation programs citing costs as a factor

For Discussion: What are possible next steps?

Options trustees may want to consider:

1. Hire an external consultant to complete a business case to reaffirm feasibility of taking on child care as a district;
2. Continue to search for third party providers at sites where viability exists;
3. Allocate funds through the 2026-2027 budget process to create a longer range strategy for child care in AMDSB; or,
4. Work with municipal partners to explore the possibility of opening recreation programs in areas where before and after school care does not exist.