

POLICY 901

Frequently Asked Questions

Space Allocation for Designated Early Learning and Child Care Facilities

Q1.

Why have a policy for the allocation of spaces in designated early learning and child care facilities?

[Policy 901 - Space Allocation for Designated Early Learning and Child Care Facilities](#) (Policy 901)

improves equitable access to early learning and child care for families across the province by targeting communities with the greatest needs, to better support families participating in our workforce.

Q2.

Does Policy 901 affect me as a current operator of an early learning and child care facility?

Policy 901 applies to all operators of designated facilities, applicants who wish to open a new designated facility, and operators of existing non-designated facilities who want to become designated.

Q3.

Does Policy 901 prioritize not-for-profit organizations and early learning and child care homes?

As per section 6.1 of the [Licensing Regulation – Early Childhood Services Act](#), the Department will designate not-for-profit facilities and early learning and child care homes before any other facility.

Q4.

Is it mandatory to create infant spaces?

Infant spaces may not be required in some instances. See the [Early Learning and Child Care Space Allocation Grid](#) for the number and type of spaces and the Call for Proposals for application requirements.

Q5.

Why is there a focus on infant spaces in Policy 901?

Following numerous engagement sessions with parents and stakeholders, a shortage of infant spaces for children less than two years old was identified as an urgent need across the province. New Brunswick has committed to prioritizing the creation of infant spaces to support new parents and facilitate their return to work.

Q6.

What if the [Early Learning and Childcare Waitlist \(ELCC Waitlist\)](#) shows the need for more spaces in a community than the number of spaces listed in the [Space Allocation Grid](#)?

Should the needs of a community change, as demonstrated by the ELCC Waitlist, the Minister may award additional spaces to an applicant(s).

Q7.

I own a designated facility and I want to open more spaces. Can I do that?

Operators of designated facilities wanting to open more designated spaces must conform with Policy 901 and apply for additional designated spaces through the Call for Proposals.

Q8.

Do I need to go through the Call for Proposals if I want to open an early learning and child care home?

Policy 901 [Appendix A - Exceptions](#), states that new applicants for early learning and child care homes are currently exempt from applying through the Call for Proposals. A new applicant for an early learning and child care home is required to offer, and fill, a minimum of one (1) infant space to be eligible for the exception and must meet all licensing and designation requirements.

Q9.

Where can I find more information?

Operators and parents may contact the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by phone at 1-833-221-9339 or by email at EECDPortal-PortailEDPE@gnb.ca