Peel Region

2025 School-Age Funding Updates

Teleconference for Centre-Based Providers

Early Years and Child Care Services

June 19, 2025

Housekeeping

This meeting is being **recorded** and will be shared with the presentation.

Your microphone will be muted unless called upon during the question period.

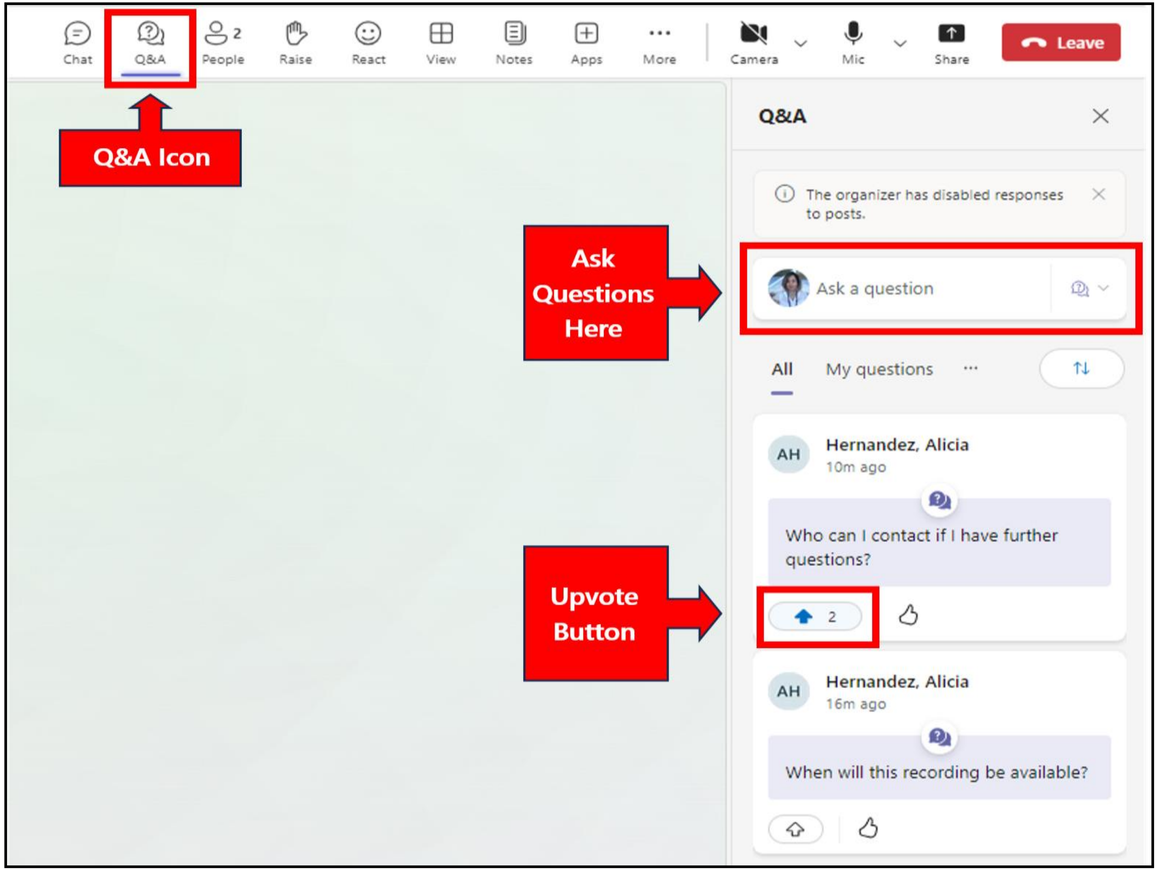
Use the Q&A feature to post your questions. You can also email us at earlyyearssystemdivision@peelregion.ca or contact your Early Years Specialist.

The personal information collected during this meeting is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Act S.O. 2001, c.25*. The information will be used for future reference for purposes of the Region of Peel's Human Services Department, Early Years and Child Care Services Division.

Questions about the collection of personal information and information collected should be directed to earlyyearssystemdivision@peelregion.ca.

Disclaimer: This slide deck is shared for informational purposes only and does not replace the requirements and rules set out in the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, its regulations, your service agreement, the CWELCC guideline and/or the service provider handbook.

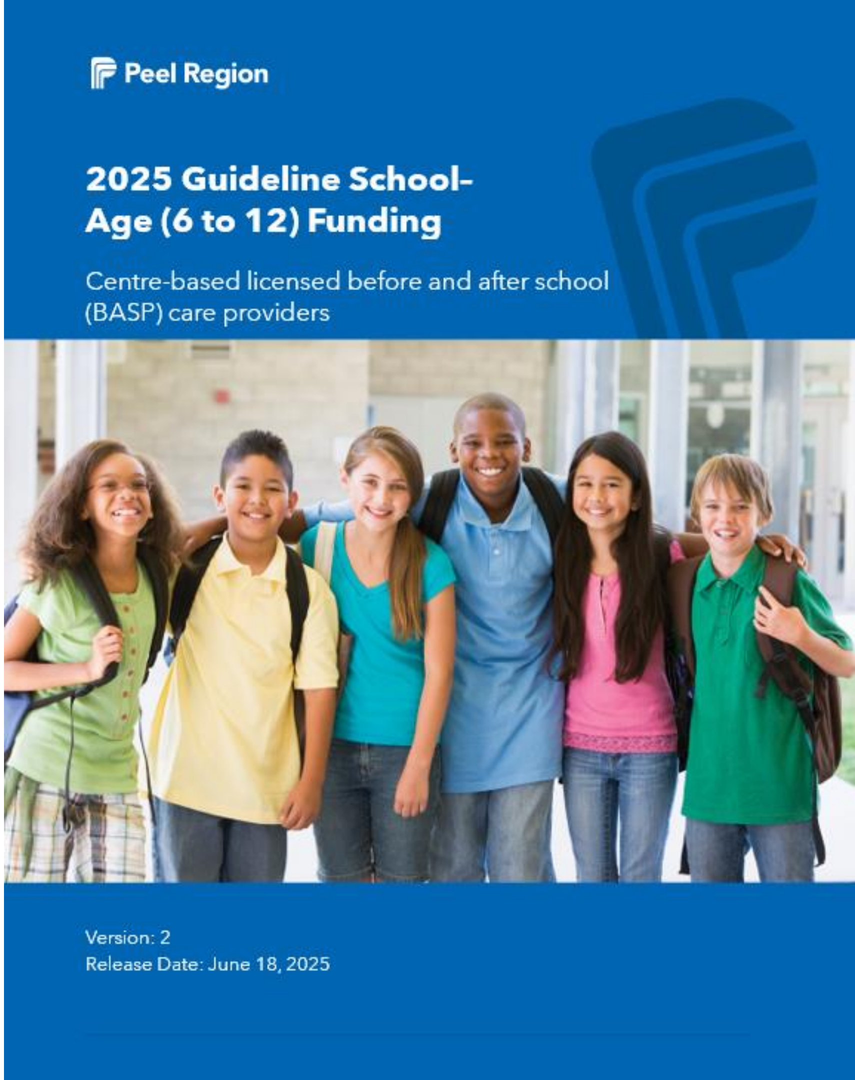
How to Use the Microsoft Teams Q&A Feature



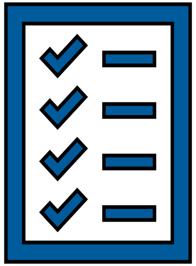
Agenda

1. **Updated School-Age (6-12) Funding Recap**
   - Minimum Wage Offset
   - Operations
   - Administration
   - Workforce Innovation Funding
     - Planning Time
     - Professional Learning

2. **Q&A Period**



2025 School-Age (6-12) Funding Components



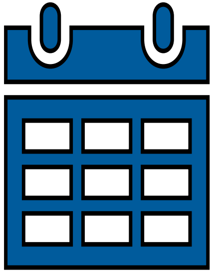
No Change! January 2025

Workforce Grants (GOF, WEG, WCF)

Fee Reduction

Program Enrichment

Enhanced Program Support



Added! July 2025

Minimum Wage Offset

Operations

Workforce Innovation Funding (WIF)

Administration

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Minimum Wage Offset

Minimum Wage Offset (MWO)

- Helps with incremental cost pressures (salaries and benefits) for eligible non-RECE staff for previous years' minimum wage increases:
  - January 1, 2022 (from $14.35 to $15.00)
  - October 1, 2022 (from $15.00 to $15.50)
  - October 1, 2023 ($15.50 to $16.55)

MWO is not for the provincial minimum wage increase to take effect on October 1, 2025.

- Eligible positions must have a T4 and include:
  - non-RECE program staff (i.e., director approved, teacher assistant)
  - Early Childhood Assistant ECA)
  - non-RECE child care supervisors.

- You must have reported MWO expenditures in 2024 and continue to employ individuals in the eligible positions (who have hours worked) and serve school age children in 2025.

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Operations Funding

Eligible Operating Expenses

The following expense categories are eligible; for detailed descriptions of these expenses, refer to pages 30-33 in section 8 of the 2025 School-Age Guideline.

- educator costs to support viability
- occupancy
- transportation for children
- resources & supplies
- nutrition for children
- repairs and maintenance
- technology
- marketing
- play-based materials & equipment
- One-Time Emergency Funding (OTEF)*
- Audited financial statements

*we will release information about this funding soon.

Funding Requirements

1. Priority must be given to expenses that are necessary to:
   - come into compliance with Ontario codes and licensing requirements, where necessary; and
   - cover the school-age portion of costs for projects approved through one-time emergency funding, if applicable.
2. Funding must be used to cover expenses where other funding is not available within your budget and/or reserves for 2025; and
3. Expenses must be appropriate, reasonable and attributable to school-age program delivery between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

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Administration Funding

Funding Requirements

- Use your administration budget to cover costs to implement school-age (6-12) programs and meet reporting and reconciliation requirements.

- Costs for administration such as bookkeeping or accounting with an external company or a third-party company are eligible, provided receipts and invoicing support expense criteria claimed.

- Documentation may be requested.
  - T4s,
  - Time logs,
  - Payroll records,
  - Receipts/invoices.

Expenditures must not exceed the amount on your administration budget category in GovGrants.

You can use unspent administration funding on other expenses as noted in the financial flexibility policy.

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Workforce Innovation Funding

Funding Requirements

1) Planning time (mandatory) – No change

- You must provide eligible staff with one hour of planning time. This can be implemented weekly, bi-weekly, accumulated, or up to a maximum of four hours per month.
- This can be implemented retroactively from April 1 to December 31, 2025.

Funding Requirements

2) Professional learning (optional to staff)

- Provides funding to support eligible staff professional learning from April to December 31, 2025.
- Each eligible staff member can access up to $500 for professional learning.

By July 31, 2025, you **must:**

- **Share** this funding opportunity with your eligible staff (template will be provided); and
- **Develop** an internal policy outlining the process for accessing professional learning funding (if your organization does not already have one).

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Funding Flexibility

Mandatory Requirements

You must meet all mandatory funding requirements :

- Meet your Workforce Funding Requirements (GOF, WEG, WCF)
- Meet Your Fee Reduction Requirements
- Facilitate BASP Enrichment Activities
- Use EPS Funding to Support Inclusive Programs
- **Provide Planning Time**

THEN

Unspent 2025 funding can be used for:

- Wage Enhancement
- Workforce Compensation
- General Operating
- Fee Reduction
- Program Enrichment
- Enhanced Program Support*
- **Operations**
- **Planning Time**
- **Professional Learning**

Funding Flexibility Policy

Reminders

- You cannot use financial flexibility to enhance wage grants beyond the grant's policy requirements.
- You may only move a maximum of 10% out of EPS unless you have approval from the region
- If you use financial flexibility in 2025 to offset other costs, additional expenses (and enhancements) in other categories must be considered as one-time and will not be supported in 2026.

Funding Flexibility Policy

Examples:

- ❌ You cannot use financial flexibility to give someone $3/hr for WEG.
- ✅ You can use financial flexibility to do more planning time hours for your eligible staff.
- ❌ You cannot use financial flexibility to invest more than your GovGrants award in administration.
- ✅ You can use financial flexibility to purchase play-based materials for your school-age programs.

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Reporting & Accountability Requirements

Reporting and Accountability Requirements

- Use GovGrants to report total annual expenditures for all applicable budget categories.
- An excel template will be provided to support detailed expenditure reporting for reconciliation.
- Details about reconciliation and proration of expenses (for programs serving children 0-12 years old) will be shared in the coming months.

Expense Reporting

Component	GovGrants Budget Category (total spent)	Detailed Excel Expenses (Required to Report)
Minimum Wage Offset	• Minimum Wage Offset	• Wages for non-RECE Supervisors • Wages for non-RECE program staff • Benefits for non-RECE Supervisors • Benefits for non-RECE program staff
Operations Funding	• Operations	• Total expenses on each expense category: Educator Salaries for Viability, Occupancy, Transportation for Children, Resources/Supplies, Nutrition for Children, Repairs and Maintenance, Technology, Marketing, Play-based Materials and Equipment, OTEF, and Audit Costs.
Workforce Innovation Funding (WIF)	• Planning Time • Professional Learning Cost	• Wages and benefits for time spent on program planning. • Total professional learning cost for training fees, courses, facilitator costs, wages and benefits for the time spent traveling, and wages and benefits for participation in professional learning activities.
Administration Funding	• Administration	• N/A

Revised Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- **Minimum Wage Offset (Workforce Compensation Funding)**
    - Number of non-RECE program staff supported by the minimum wage offset
    - Number of non-RECE supervisors supported by the minimum wage offset

- **Workforce Innovation Funding**
    - Number of individuals supported with planning time
    - Total number of actual planning time hours
    - Number of individuals supported with professional learning costs

- **Enhanced Program Support**
    - Number of school-aged programs supported
    - Number of school-aged classrooms supported (removed)

Funding Methodology

Your funding allocations are based on the following:

- **Minimum Wage Offset (MWO)** – higher of reported expenditures or GovGrants award from 2024 plus 4% contingency.
- **Workforce Innovation Funding (WIF)** – the amount you spent in your 2023 WIF reconciliation, with additional funding added to reflect any changes in staffing levels between 2023 and 2025.
- **Operations** – $306 per space multiplied by the total school-age operating capacity reported and validated as of March 31, 2025.
- **Administration** - $5,000 per licensed school-age program as of March 31, 2025.

What’s next?

Date	Details
By June 20	• GovGrants amendment to 2025 School-Age (6 to 12) Programs – Centres announcement
July 2	• Updated school-age payments begin.
Coming Soon	• Details about reconciliation and reporting will be shared.

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Questions?

Resources

1. Peel's Updated 2025 School-Age (6-12) Funding Guideline
2. Ministry of Education's Ontario's Child Care and Early Years Funding Guidelines
3. EYCC Service Provider Handbook

Resources will be posted on Peel's website for providers: Funding support and resources - peelregion.ca

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Thank You!

Appendix #1: Detailed Operations Eligible Expenses

Description	Eligible Expenses
Educator costs to support viability	Costs for: • educators in classrooms temporarily running at a financial loss due to insufficient enrolment; and • second staff persons required to be in the program as identified in the CCEYA for programs with enrolment between 6-14 children.
Occupancy	Costs for lease, utilities, insurance, cleaning contracts, staffing, equipment and pest management.
Transportation for children	• Costs for gas, insurance and maintenance associated only with a vehicle used to transport school-age children.

Appendix #1: Detailed Operations Eligible Expenses

Description	Eligible Expenses
Nutrition	• Child size serving and eating utensils. • Child friendly cooking kits that could include simple tasks, such as spreading, mixing, and assembling. • Age-appropriate snacks for children 6 to 12 considering portion sizes and variety. Refer to O. Reg. 137/15: General, section 42 Nutrition requirements in the CCEYA for more details on these requirements. • Safe food storage solutions, such as coolers, labeled bins or reusable containers to reduce waste. • Allergy management tools such as allergy chart templates, or color-coded utensils.
Resources and supplies	• Attendance tracking tools, such as binders and sign-in sheets. • Program binders, DEI program materials and training materials. • Family communication or interactive apps, and technology platforms to support attendance tracking tools. • First aid kits and emergency preparedness supplies, such as flashlights, blankets, and emergency contact binders. • Laminating tools or organizational storage to support long-term material use. • Pre-assembled kits that enhance programs, support learning extensions and reduce prep time for staff.

Appendix #1: Detailed Operations Eligible Expenses

Description	Expenses
Repairs and maintenance	• Kitchen sinks, cupboards, counters, or commercial appliances, such as gas or electric stove, range hood, food processor, fridge, freezer, or dishwasher. • Washroom flooring, sinks, toilets, taps, mirrors, partitions, or soap dispensers. • Major systems including building foundation, sump pump, emergency lighting, secure entrances, HVAC, leaking roof, asbestos removal, wiring upgrades, windows and doors, accessibility, ventilation systems, and air purifiers if ventilation is insufficient or where outdoor or fresh air introduction cannot be achieved by other means. • Play areas including fencing to meet licensing or playground inspection requirements, damaged or worn outdoor safety surfacing, drinking water systems, shade structures, damaged or worn flooring material, damaged or worn ceiling, and indoor painting where paint has faded due to frequent cleaning. • Furnishings and equipment including chairs, toy shelves, tables, coat hooks or hangers. • Other: washer or dryer and secure entrances per site, including surveillance cameras.
Technology	• IT equipment or upgrades to facilitate internet connectivity for business purposes and participate in virtual consultations with Peel Inclusion Resource Services (PIRS) Resource Consultants (RC) and Quality Initiatives (QI) Mentors. • Computers, tablets, all-in-one printers, scanners, copiers, modem, router, wi-fi extender, two-way radios, projector and projector screen (1 per site). • Child care management software subscriptions. • Technology to reduce admin burden, such as automated payroll and accounting setup like Sage or QuickBooks. • NOTE: Flat-screen televisions are not eligible, environmental fees are eligible at time of purchase, and subscriptions can be covered until Dec 31, 2025.

Appendix #1: Detailed Operations Eligible Expenses

Description	Expenses
Marketing	• Website development or upgrades, including mobile capabilities and online social media presence. • Online marketing and marketing for recruitment, such as email marketing, social media marketing, and search Engine Optimization (SEO). • Display advertising, search engine marketing (SEM) and content marketing, radio commercials to support enrollment or staffing, print materials such as flyers and posters, and signage such as outdoor neon signs and property signs.
Play-based materials and equipment	• Non-consumable materials including blocks and construction materials, dramatic play items, art materials, gross motor or outdoor toys, table toys and cognitive play. • Items that extend learning and socialization from an enrichment activity. • Montessori programs may use funds to purchase items for Montessori school-age classrooms.

Appendix #1: Detailed Operations Eligible Expenses

Description	Expenses

One-Time Emergency Funding (OTEF)	• Supports urgent one-time, non-discretionary costs attributed to serving children 6 to12 years old as approved under the OTEF.
	• The expense is eligible if it not reimbursed by insurance or not covered under other funding sources and is an approved OTEF expense.
	• More information about the OTEF and the proration of costs will be shared in the updated 2025 CWELCC Funding Guideline to be released in July 2025.
	• Example: If you experience a burst pipe.
	    • Cost of a burst pipe after insurance payment: $8,000
	    • Child care centre CWELCC vs. school-age ratio: 80/20
	    • CWELCC OTEF approved payment: $6,400
	    • Eligible school-age operations amount: $1,600

Audit Financial Statements	• Support costs of Audited Financial Statements, as required by Peel, for the licensed school-age child care portion of your business.