

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE OPERATORS/ADMINISTRATORS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Policy 901: Space Allocation for Designated Early Learning and Child Care Facilities**

**Q1. Why create a policy for the allocation of spaces in designated early learning and child care facilities?**

A. The new space allocation policy will improve 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. Will the new Policy affect me as a current operator of an early learning and child care facility?**

A. The Policy applies only to operators who wish to either open a new designated facility or expand their preschool spaces.

**Q3. Will the designation process change because of the Policy?**

A. Yes. EECD will now issue a Call for Proposals to receive expressions of interest to obtain designation status for new or additional licensed preschool spaces. A Call for Proposals will be issued at least once a year.

Applicants seeking designation status for new or additional licensed spaces will complete and submit Step 1 of the application form, as established by [Policy 901](#).

**Q4. What information will new applicants or current operators need to provide to apply for new designated spaces?**

A. Applications will be assessed based on the evaluation criteria outlined in [Policy 901](#), such as the demonstration of regional needs, a market analysis for the services the facility intends to provide and an expected timeline for implementation; the need to provide infant spaces; the facility's capacity to deliver services including infant care; and their ability to provide inclusive services that meet the needs of the language community, diverse populations, vulnerable children and Indigenous communities.

**Q5. I have a long wait list, why can't I open more designated spaces now?**

A. Operators must comply with [Policy 901](#) - *Space Allocation for Designated Early Learning and Child Care Facilities*. Operators who wish to open an ELCC facility or expand services without designation status may do so at any time.

**Q6. Why is there a focus on infant spaces in the Space Allocation for Designated Early Learning and Child Care Facilities Policy ?**

A. 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.

**Q7. I own a designated facility and I want to open more spaces. Can I do that?**

A. Operators seeking to open more designated spaces must conform with [Policy 901](#) - *Space Allocation for Designated Early Learning and Child Care Facilities* and apply for new or additional designated spaces through the Call for Proposals.

**Q8. Where can I find more information?**

A. 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](mailto:EECDPortal-PortailEDPE@gnb.ca).