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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Backgrounder

About the Full-Day Kindergarten Pilot

The Department of Education is introducing full-day kindergarten beginning with a pilot in five schools during the 2023-2024 school year. Full-day kindergarten is offered in many other Canadian jurisdictions and has been shown to positively benefit student achievement and childhood development.

The schools to participate in the pilot include:

- Nanook School, Apex
- Qaqqalik School, Kimmirut
- Victor Sammurtok School, Chesterfield Inlet
- Inuglak School, Whale Cove
- Jimmy Hikok Ilihakvik, Kugluktuk

The expansion to full-day kindergarten will build on Nunavut's existing program while offering students access to more instructional time. This will help students to build their foundational knowledge and skills in important areas such as Inuit culture and language, literacy, numeracy, as well as physical, social-emotional wellness.

While offering a wide range of benefits to students, the Department of Education also recognizes the importance of taking a gradual approach to the expansion to full-day kindergarten.

At present, not all of Nunavut's schools have the required space or resources to support full-day kindergarten. The department has worked closely with district education authorities, teachers and staff to review school space and capacity needs. The Department of Education, in collaboration with its partners, is developing a long-term plan for the sustainable implementation of full-day kindergarten in all Nunavut schools.

The 2023-2024 Full-Day Kindergarten Pilot is the first step to help guide a phased system-wide rollout. Piloting the expansion of full-day kindergarten in five select schools will help to ensure that the expanded programming is beneficial for students and staff. The department will assess the results of the pilot throughout the school year. Lessons learned from the pilot will be used to inform the Department of Education's long-term plan and ensure that all schools in Nunavut are adequately prepared to offer full-day kindergarten in their communities.