

Grade Primary Options

How can I register my child for Grade Primary French Immersion?

French Immersion programs are offered at the following Education Centres:

- Antigonish (Appleseed Drive)
- Cape Breton Highlands (Terre Noire)
- East Richmond (St. Peters)
- Felix Marchand (Louisdale)
- Tamarac (Port Hawkesbury)

Parent information sessions on French Immersion are held in January and February. To obtain more information on French Immersion, please refer to the contact information on the back of the brochure.

Are Grade Primary orientation activities held at the schools?

All schools that offer Grade Primary have an orientation day for incoming Grade Primary students in the Spring. Some schools offer additional orientation programs that take place over several weeks. Please ask about the dates for Primary orientation activities when you register your child for school.

What if I want my child to attend a school other than our local one?

In order for your child to attend Grade Primary in a school other than the one serving your area, you must apply in writing to the Director of Programs and Student Services and make a transfer request. Please see the information guide at the back of this brochure for more information on applying for student transfers.

Where can I get more information?

Grade Primary is a full-day school program for children who turn five on or before December 31. It is designed to nurture child development, provide varied learning experiences and introduce students to a range of school subjects, including language arts and mathematics. Grade Primary bridges the transition from preschool to public school. More information on the Grade Primary Program may be obtained by referring to the following chart:

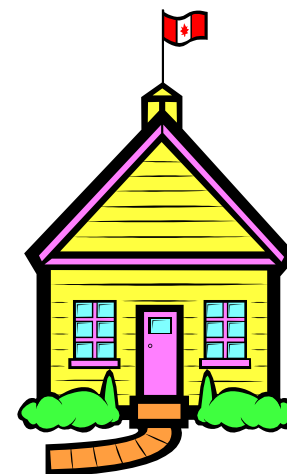
| Topic | Contact |
|--|---|
| Primary registration dates and parent information sessions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local school • local newspapers • www.srsb.ca |
| Services for students with special needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator of Student Services: 902-625-7133 |
| The Grade Primary Program and Curriculum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ednet.ns.ca |
| French Immersion Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant of French Programs: 902-747-3670, ext. 2229 |
| School Transfer Requests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.srsb.ca, Policy IV-E-7, Transfer of Students |
| General inquiries and to access additional copies of this brochure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 902-625-2191/1-800-650-4448 • www.srsb.ca • srsb@srsb.ca |

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Strait Regional School Board
Programs and Student Services

Starting Grade Primary

A Guide for Parents/Guardians



Strait Regional School Board
Excellence in Lifelong Learning

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Grade Primary Registration

What is the age requirement for Grade Primary?

Children entering Grade Primary must be 5 years old on or before December 31 in the year that they start school.

When and where does registration for Grade Primary take place?

For students starting school in September, Primary registration takes place during the preceding winter months, usually during January and February and is held at the schools. Notices are placed in local newspapers, school newsletters, the school board website and other media.

What documents should I bring with me when I register my child for Grade Primary?

Although you do not have to bring your child with you to the school to register, it is necessary to have your child's birth certificate and health card number on hand.

What information will I be asked to provide on the Primary Registration form?

Parents are asked to provide the following information on the Registration Form:

- Personal Information (child's full name, address, date of birth, etc.)
- Family Information (family doctor, health card number, emergency contact numbers, custody arrangements, etc.)
- Medical Information (allergies, illnesses, diabetes, medications, etc.)
- Special Needs (hearing loss, vision loss, autism, limited mobility, etc.)

Parents are encouraged to provide any and all helpful information during registration.

Information Sharing

Is it important to share information about my child's medical history and/or special needs with the school?

Yes. When you register your child for school, it is important to fill out the registration form completely. Be sure to include information under the different headings. The more information that you share with school staff about your child, the better the school can prepare for his/her entry into Grade Primary. It is especially important to let the school know if your child has any medical conditions, such as severe allergies, diabetes, asthma, etc. It is also essential to let the school know if your child has any special needs such as speech-language delays, autism, behavioral challenges or hearing loss. If this information is not shared with school personnel, they cannot fully prepare to meet your child's needs at school. In order to ensure the best possible start at school, it is essential that you share information about any special needs early in the Primary Registration process.

How will the information that I share with the school be handled?

The information will be kept confidential and shared with school personnel on a need to know basis. Any reports or sensitive documents will be kept in a Confidential Student Record with restricted access. Public Health officials sometimes request class lists from schools to assist with immunizations and other health care services. **If you do NOT want your child's personal information shared with Public Health, please note this preference on the Primary Registration form.**

Children with Special Needs

If I share information with the school about my child's special needs, will s/he be labeled?

No. The information is used to prepare for your child's entry into school. It helps to create a profile of your child's strengths and challenges so that an appropriate school program can be developed. The information assists school personnel with any necessary advance planning, such as arranging bussing, purchasing furniture and equipment and preparing classrooms.

Will I be involved in the school program provided for my child with special needs?

Yes. Parent involvement is welcomed and required in all stages of program planning for students with special needs. You will be invited to school meetings about your child's school program. As well, formal individualized assessment of your child may only be completed with written parental consent. Parents have the right to obtain a copy of assessment reports completed by school board personnel. We encourage parents to request copies of assessment reports and keep them for future reference.

Are there any extra school supports to help my child with special needs prepare for Grade Primary?

Yes. Working with parents and preschool agencies, school personnel support the transition to Grade Primary through many different activities, including parent information sessions, team planning meetings and private tours of the school. Please contact your child's school to ask for more information or request assistance.