Seven benefits to expanding preschool programs in public schools

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Benefits to Expanding Public School Early Learning and Child Care

Alexander’s work

- Conference Board of Canada: Ready for Life: A Socio-Economic Analysis of Early Childhood Education and Care (2017)
- Deloitte: Early Learning and Childcare as Key Economic Infrastructure (2021)
- Alexander Economic Views: Benefits to Expanding Public School Early Learning and Childcare (2023)
Gradual move toward public education

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*Early Childhood Education Report 2011, 2020*
#1 Schools are in every neighborhood, eliminating childcare deserts and allow rapid expansion
#2 School Programs Maximize Inclusion and Diversity, Increasing Impact of ELCC

- Pre-emptive nature of ECE can reduce future education costs
- Significant human resources
- Mandatory attendance from age 6 has resulted in schools developing significant capacity to include all children
- Significant knowledge
#3 Schools can Provide a High-Quality Continuum of Learning

**Boosted and lasting:**
- behavioral regulation
- social skills
- language
- literacy/numeracy

**Continuum of:**
- inclusion
- curriculum
- pedagogy
- professional learning
- transitions

- Removing profit margins raises quality
- Takes early education out of corporate control
Public Schools Attract and Retain High-Quality Early Childhood Educators

- Recruitment, retention, career progression a challenge for licensed child care
- ECEs attracted to better compensation packages at schools
- But equally toward a more supportive and diverse school staff
#5 Cost Savings Through Economies of Scale of Public Sector

Support from school councils, principals, janitors, secretaries, counsellors, educational psychologists, speech language pathologists, and special education teachers.

Negotiate lower prices from suppliers of food, toys and other goods and services.

Cost savings can offset some of fiscal cost from public sector higher compensation.
#6 Strong Governance and Political Accountability for Outcomes and Taxpayer Dollars

- Schools benefit from strong governance and data collection/impact testing on school performance.
- Provinces have a clear and publicly understood responsibility for education policy.
- Parents hold governments accountable if their children are not performing.
- Monitoring and reporting on ECE investment more crucial than ever.
- Pre-K school-delivered programs become an integral part of the learning continuum, influence pedagogical practices in primary grades.
#7 Reduce Risk of Sustained Disruptions in Childcare Supply

- Schools do not struggle to stay viable
- Gov’t fluctuations in supply/demand
- Labor disruptions short-term
- Educators have wide public support

Source: Ontario’s Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2022
Concluding Remarks

New paper will fuel conversations

A paradigm shift is occurring, driven by the need to expand and knowledge of what quality is

Today, consider the reciprocity of both sectors being more closely aligned

Further information: https://alexandereconomicviews.com