

## **Meyokumin Online Information Session Q & A**

### **1) Does the Cogito Kindergarten program offer speech therapy or learning support?**

It is important to note that the Cogito program is highly structured and relies heavily on **oral instruction** and **listening**, but limited speech support may be an option.

- If a speech or learning delay makes it very difficult for a child to follow fast-paced verbal directions, the school might suggest during the "**Meeting for Success**" that the **Mainstream Kindergarten** program is a better fit.
- In Mainstream, there is typically more flexibility and a slower pace to allow for more intensive speech intervention during the school day.

### **2) What are the entry requirements for Cogito Kindergarten at this time?**

**Meet for success:** Your child will be observed in a classroom setting. Teachers look for **school readiness**, specifically:

- Ability to follow multi-step oral instructions
- Willingness to work quietly and stay on task
- Basic fine motor skills (pencil grip) connected to some academic tasks

**Parent commitment** is essential for success in this program.

- Be partners in education
- Support the Cogito philosophy
- Sign a daily communication book
- Monitor homework (Monday-Thursday)
- Support students in memorizing and performing monthly poems (recitations)

### **3) How do Cogito teachers help children catch up on their lessons after being out sick?**

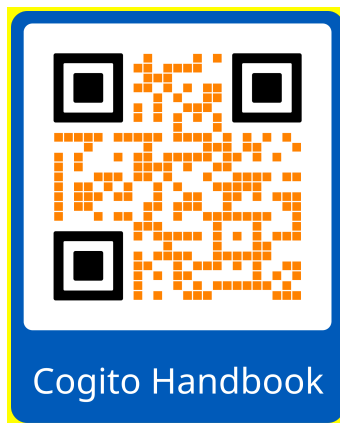
A core pillar of the Cogito program is strong parental involvement. Families are expected to play an active role in supporting their child's learning. When absences occur due to illness, students

are supported in catching up on essential missed work, which is typically expected to be completed and submitted to help ensure there are no gaps in foundational knowledge prior to the next lesson.

**4) Do Cogito students tend to outperform regular program students at the university level?**

At this time, there is no Division-wide data to indicate that Cogito students consistently outperform students from the regular program at the university level. Post-secondary success is influenced by many factors, including student motivation, study habits, family support, course selection, and individual interests. Both programs can support student achievement when learners are engaged, supported, and well-matched to the learning environment.

**5) Can you share the QR code for the handbook again?**



**6) What strategies do Cogito teachers use to differentiate lessons, and how does the school support students who are struggling to meet grade-level expectations?**

Whole group instruction is the teaching style in Cogito. Families need to consider a regular program for differentiated instruction. We communicate very early on if we feel Cogito is the type of instruction that meets the needs of the child's learning style.

## 7) How do I register a new student for Cogito Kindergarten? Is admission based on our home address or a formal interview?

To register a new student for the Cogito program at Meyokumin (or any EPSB school) for the 2026-2027 school year, you must follow a specific process that combines residency, timing, and a program-fit assessment.

### The Registration Process

1. **Digital Registration:** Between February 2 and March 25, 2026, you must register online via the Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) website. You select your preferred school and the "Cogito" alternative program. Meeting for Success timeslots are booked and while it isn't a first come first serve basis, early registration is recommended.
2. **Submit Documentation:** You will be required to upload proof of address and your child's identification.
3. **The "Meeting for Success":** Once your application is received, the school will contact you for a mandatory session, so students must be here for our planned meeting for success dates. This is an observation/readiness session for the child and an information session for the parents. Yes, it is partially based on your home address. Admission follows the EPSB [Growth Control Model](#) priority levels.

## 8) My child is in Cogito at another school; how do we transfer them to Meyokumin for next year?

Between February 2 and March 25, 2026, you must sign in to your SchoolZone account. This is where all existing Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) parents "declare their intent" for the following year.

- Select Meyokumin School as your requested school.
- Select the Cogito Program as your requested program.

Because your child is already in Cogito, you do not need to attend another "Meeting for Success." We will review your child's current Progress Reports and potentially connect with their current teacher to ensure they are meeting the Cogito standards in their current school.

If Meyokumin has more transfer requests than spots available for their grade, we will conduct a random selection in April 2026.

**9) Is French offered as part of the standard course of study for Cogito?**

While the province-wide 2nd language requirement begins in Grade 4, the Cogito program introduces second language instruction earlier, taking advantage of young children's language-learning abilities in Grade 1.

**10) What is the strategy for Cogito students working above grade level? Are there advanced tasks available to prevent them from becoming disengaged or bored?**

The Cogito program is whole group level of instruction. Extensions are embedded in literacy and numeracy to the whole class. There are no individual extensions for students as this is not a gifted & talented program.

**11) If random selection occurs, is it possible for one sibling to be accepted while the other is not in a Level 1 EPSB school?**

Technically, yes—but this is **rare**. EPSB administration and school principals make every effort to keep families together whenever possible. If one sibling is accepted into a program, schools will typically work to accommodate the other sibling in order to maintain **family connectivity**.

There are occasional situations where one child is recommended and another is not; however, in the case of **twins**, if both students are recommended and one twin is selected through random selection, the other twin will also be offered a place in the program.

**12) Do the Cogito children need to pass an intake exam?**

While there is no "exam" in the traditional sense (with grades or pass/fail scores), the teachers observe for school readiness to ensure the program is a good fit for your child. There is no preparation needed prior to the Meet for Success session.

**13) Is there a mainstream Kindergarten option available at Meyokumin School?**

Yes, Meyokumin School offers a regular (mainstream) Kindergarten program in addition to the Cogito alternative program.



**14) Is the upcoming 'Meeting for Success' mandatory for Cogito Grade 1 registration, or is it only for Kindergarten parents?**

For students entering Grade 1 (who are new to the Cogito program), we replace the formal "Meeting for Success" assessment with a review of current progress reports and may connect with the current teacher for input.

**15) Is there a before-and-after school care program available for students on the school premises?**

Meyokumin School does not have on-site after-school programming. That being said, there are out-of-school care providers in close proximity to Meyokumin that drop-off/pick up students before and after school.

**16) We aren't in the Meyokumin designated attendance zone, but this is our nearest Cogito site. Are we still eligible to apply for the program here?**

As a Level 1 school in the Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) Growth Control Model, Meyokumin has "open boundaries." This means the school is currently at a stable capacity and is actively able to accept students from across the city, provided there is space in the specific grade and program you are seeking.

**17) Can my child apply for Cogito Grade 1 at more than one school if they are currently in the regular Kindergarten class?**

The registration process requires you to select only 1 "preferred school" for the upcoming year. For students already in the division, this is done via SchoolZone during the pre-enrolment window.

**18) What are the long-term academic and developmental advantages of the Cogito curriculum compared to the mainstream program?**

Choosing between Cogito and a mainstream program often comes down to your child's learning style and your family's daily routine. While both follow the Alberta Program of Studies, Cogito is designed as an "academic alternative" with a specific philosophical approach.



## 1. Academic Advantages

- **Accelerated Pace & Enriched Content:** Cogito covers the standard curriculum faster, leaving more time for "enriched" topics. For example, students often tackle complex grammar, classic literature (like Shakespeare), and advanced math concepts (like early algebra or geometry proofs) sooner than in the mainstream track.
- **Strong Foundational Skills:** There is a heavy emphasis on "explicit instruction"—specifically phonics for reading and computational mastery (memorizing math facts) for numeracy. This creates a very high level of accuracy and fluency in the early years.

## 2. Developmental Advantages

- **Work Ethic & Self-Discipline:** Because daily homework and high standards for penmanship and organization are mandatory, Cogito students often develop superior **time-management skills** and study habits early on.
- **Concentration & Focus:** The classroom environment is deliberately structured to be quiet and distraction-free. This "teacher-directed" model helps students build high levels of sustained attention and stamina.
- **Confidence Through Mastery:** The program operates on the belief that "effort leads to achievement." Seeing their own progress through regular testing and recitation can build a strong sense of academic self-worth.

## 19) What can we do at home to help our child feel confident and ready for their Cogito interview?

It is an advantage for students to be in an environment with a structured setting prior to their Meet for Success.

**Practice Listening:** Give 2-step directions (e.g., "Put your toy away and sit at the table") to ensure they can follow instructions the first time.

**Build Focus:** Practice "table time" where they sit and work on a task (colouring, puzzles, or tracing) for 10–15 minutes without getting up.

**Fine Motor Skills:** Practice a proper **pencil grip** and have them work on tracing lines or writing their name clearly.

**Social Independence:** Role-play a "classroom" scenario where they greet a teacher and say goodbye to you confidently. Keep it low-pressure so they view the visit as a fun activity.



**20) If a child has a sibling currently in the Cogito program at Meyokumin School, is their acceptance guaranteed, provided they pass the interview, or are they still subject to random selection?**

Having a sibling already in the program is a significant advantage, but for a specialized alternative program like Cogito, acceptance is **highly prioritized rather than strictly "guaranteed"** in the same way the regular program would be. Most importantly, we would need to first determine at the Meet for Success if Cogito is a good fit for the student.

**21) Does the school board support a 'Cogito at home' option for parents interested in homeschooling?**

The Cogito program is designed strictly as a classroom-based alternative program. Its core philosophy relies on direct, teacher-led instruction in a structured environment where students progress together. Because of this, EPSB does not provide a remote or home-based version of the Cogito-specific curriculum. Please check [epsb.ca](https://www.e-psb.ca) to find more information about homeschooling (through the Argyll Centre)

**22) In your experience, is it better for a child born in late December to start Kindergarten as one of the youngest in the class, or to wait until the following year to ensure school readiness?**

In Alberta, the cutoff for Kindergarten is typically December 31. This means a child born in late December 2021 is eligible to start in September 2026. Because Cogito moves at a faster pace with higher expectations, many parents do ask about "readiness." The school's "Meeting for Success" is a great time to ask. Teachers often suggest that a child's social-emotional readiness is more important than their age, especially in the fast-paced Cogito program. As a partner in Education, it is the parents' decision.

**23) Given that EPSB policy typically restricts registration to a single school, what is the recommended procedure if my child is not selected for enrollment at Meyokumin through the random selection process?**

If your child is not selected for the Cogito program at Meyokumin through the random selection process, as a resident student, you are always guaranteed a spot in the Regular program at your designated neighbourhood school or overflow school (Level 3 schools). You can also contact other Level 1 Cogito schools to see if they still have open spots if they did not reach their enrollment limit.

**24) Does my child need to have attended preschool to be eligible for Kindergarten, or is daycare experience sufficient? What are the entry requirements?**

There is **no requirement** to attend preschool. Children can join Kindergarten directly from daycare or home.

**25) If we live in the designated area but aren't successful during random selection, where will my child be redirected for school?**

Under Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) policy, every student is guaranteed a spot at their designated neighborhood school in the **Regular program**.

**26) Is the 'Meeting for Success' an interview or a student observation? If my child does well, is their spot in the Cogito program guaranteed?**

For the Cogito program, this is an **observation session**. Teachers assess student engagement and following of directions during whole-group learning. While it's a required step, it does not bypass the random selection process if there are more "successful" kids than there are desks.

**27) Is Cogito K-9 a prerequisite for International Baccalaureate or Advance Placement in High School?**

No, the Cogito program is not a prerequisite for International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced Placement (AP) in high school. While they are often mentioned together as academic pathways, they are separate programs with different entry requirements.

**28) I am trying to complete the online pre-enrollment for the 2026/2027 school year, but the system is not allowing me to finalize the registration.**

For the 2026/2027 school year, the reason you cannot complete your registration right now is that the official window has not opened yet. Pre-registration opens February 2, 2026 at 8:00 AM - March 25, 2026 @ 4:00 PM.

**29) Meet for success is scheduled before the registration closes. Does that mean we need to register as soon as possible in order to be available for Meet for Success?**

Yes, as our Meet for Success dates are prior to pre-enrollment closing dates and kindergarten students must attend one to be recommended for random selection.



**30) What will happen if we want to enroll our child in Meyokumin under cogito and are not selected, will he still be able to go back to his original school (level 3) where he attended Kindergarten?**

If you apply for Cogito at Meyokumin School and are not selected, the outcome depends on where you live and which school is your designated school.

If you live in the Meyokumin attendance area, you are a level 1 resident. If you don't get into the Cogito program, you are guaranteed a spot in the regular mainstream program at Meyokumin. You do not need to leave the school.

If you are currently attending a Level 3 school for Kindergarten (which is not your designated school) and you apply for Cogito at Meyokumin grade 1, here is the risk:

- **Returning is NOT guaranteed:** If your current school is Level 3, it is at full capacity. Once you "leave" by selecting a different school during pre-enrolment, you are considered a new applicant if you try to go back.
- **Lottery Risk:** Because Level 3 schools often use a lottery for *any* new student, you would have to enter that lottery to get back in. You would lose the "guaranteed" status you had as a returning student.
- **The "Designated" Safety Net:** If you aren't selected for Meyokumin Cogito AND can't get back into your Level 3 school, you are always guaranteed a spot at your designated neighbourhood school (which may be different from your current Level 3 school).

**31) What is the primary difference between a Level 2 and a Level 3 school in the Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) system?**

The fundamental difference lies in guaranteed access for neighbourhood families. While a Level 2 school guarantees a spot for every resident student in its attendance area, a Level 3 school does not.

**32) If my child is currently in the mainstream Kindergarten program at Meyokumin and we apply for Grade 1 Cogito, will we also hear about the selection results in April?**

Yes, you will follow the same timeline as all other families. Because your child is moving from the Regular program to the Cogito program, this is technically a "change of program." You will

pre-enroll on SchoolZone and you will be notified of the results after random selection by April 17, 2026.

**33) Does living within the yellow bus service area give my child priority for enrolment in the Cogito program over students who live outside that area?**

No, living in the yellow bus service area does not grant you higher priority for enrolment. In the Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) system, enrollment priority and transportation eligibility are two entirely separate systems.

**34) If my son is currently attending a private school, can we apply to transfer him to the Cogito program at Meyokumin School for Grade 2 or 3?**

Yes, for the 2026/2027 school year, you can apply to transfer your son from a private school to the Cogito program for Grade 2 or 3. Because he is coming from a private school, he is considered a "New Student" to the Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) division.

Since you do not yet have a **SchoolZone** account, you follow a slightly different registration path than current EPSB students:

1. **Online Registration (Feb 2 – March 25, 2026):** You must complete the New Student Registration form on the EPSB website. You cannot use SchoolZone for this first step.
2. **Academic Review:** For Grades 1-6 entry, the school will not require a "Meeting for Success" (which is for Kindergarten). Instead, they will ask for your son's most recent report cards from his private school and they may connect with current teachers. They look for strong academic performance, specifically in Math and English.
3. **Residency Verification:** You will need to upload legal proof of your address and your son's birth certificate or Canadian citizenship documents.

**35) Is it possible to come take a tour of the school?**

No, Meyokumin School does not offer private tours for prospective families. Because the school is fully operational, the priority is to maintain a distraction-free environment where students can focus on their learning. To help our youngest learners adjust, the Cogito Kindergarten program uses a staggered entry process at the start of the school year.

