

	EDUCATION	III-C-4
STRAIT REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD <i>Excellence in Lifelong Learning</i> POLICIES AND GUIDELINES	Special Education PROGRAMMING	
	Adopted:	September 3, 1997
	Revised:	November 3, 2010
	Page:	1 of 3

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Programming

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLING - FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

The Department of Education supports an inclusive approach to the education of all students as stated in the *Education Act*, Section 64(i)(d).

The goal of inclusive schooling is to facilitate the membership, participation and learning of all students in school programs and activities. The process by which this goal is achieved is complex and is dependent upon a number of components for its success, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Understanding of and commitment to an inclusive philosophy at all levels of the education system; this entails an acceptance of all students, a belief that all students can learn, and a social ethic of acceptance of diversity;
- ✓ Leadership at the board and school level to bring about a collaborative culture within schools and between schools and communities and other agencies to address the needs of students;
- ✓ School boards providing a continuum of programming options and services to meet the special needs of students and communicating the process of accessing these options to schools and parents;
- ✓ The early and ongoing involvement of parents in the educational programming of their children;
- ✓ Public awareness strategies that explain the philosophy of inclusive schooling and showcase exemplary practices;
- ✓ The provision and creative use of supports for teachers and students.

The vision is to have all Nova Scotia schools embrace and practise inclusive schooling.

Implementation of inclusive schooling requires a continuing collaborative effort among all partners in the education process: parents, community, schools, boards, health and community services, and government departments.

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	Adopted:	September 3, 1997
	Revised:	
	Page:	2 of 3

The Strait Regional School Board supports the vision of the Nova Scotia Department of Education on inclusive schooling and adheres to guidelines and procedures contained in Sections 2.0 to 2.9 of the provincial Special Education Policy.

1. **Use of Resources for Appropriate Programming** – The Strait Regional School Board is required to provide appropriate programming for all students with special needs and must use allocated resources for this purpose. All schools are required to use allocated resources to provide appropriate programming for all students with special needs in their care.
2. **Program Planning Process** - The Strait Regional School Board has established a process of identification, assessment, program planning, and evaluation for students with special needs.
3. **Program Planning Teams** – The Strait Regional School Board requires each school to establish program planning teams to develop, implement, and monitor programming for students with special needs.
4. **Assessment: Parental Involvement** - Each school is responsible for involving and informing parents/guardians with respect to decisions regarding assessments designed for their child.
5. **Appropriate Assessments: Qualified Personnel** – The Strait Regional School Board is responsible for ensuring that appropriate assessments are carried out by qualified personnel.
6. **Individual Program Plans (IPP)** - An individual program plan, based on the student’s strengths and challenges, will be developed and implemented for every student for whom the provincial curriculum outcomes are not applicable and/or attainable.
7. **Transition Planning** – Each school is responsible for the completion of transition planning as part of the individual planning process for each student with special needs.
8. **Evaluation of Programs** - The Strait Regional School Board shall establish procedures for regular evaluation of programs and services for students with special needs.

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	Revised:	November 3, 2010
	Page:	3 of 3

9. **Access to School Records** - The Strait Regional School Board shall provide access to school records in accordance with the provisions of the *Education Act* and Regulations, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP)*, the *Department of Education's Students Records Policy* and School Board Student Records policies and procedures.