



# Edmonton Public Schools

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## Programming for Students with Special Education Needs

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EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Students with Special Education Needs



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- Mild/Moderate: mild/moderate cognitive needs, learning disabilities, gifted, communication disabilities
- Severe: medical needs, physical needs, hearing and vision needs, behaviour and emotional needs, autism spectrum

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# Demographics

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	Enrollment Count (Sept. 2008)
Schools	202
Students	79,608
Students with identified special education needs	9,851
Mild/Moderate	6,921
Severe	2,939



# History of Edmonton Public Schools and Special Education

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- 1885-Edmonton Public Schools
- 1919- first class for slow learners

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# EPSB Policy

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- The neighborhood school is the guaranteed point of entry for all students, and the regular classroom shall be the first option considered
- Each school shall be responsible for accommodating all students in its attendance area

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# Inclusion

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## Definition:

“Inclusion, by definition, refers not merely to setting but specially designed instruction and support for students with special education needs in regular classrooms and neighbourhood schools.”

Alberta Education: Standards for Special Education, June 2004

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# Process for Identification and Budget Allocation



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- Criteria for eligibility is aligned with Alberta Education (provincial government)
- Students are assessed at the school – use of specialists such as psychologists, reading specialists, occupational therapists etc., informed consent by parents

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# Budget

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- Edmonton Public School District central office determines which students qualify for special education funding
- Funds are distributed to the school to support differentiated programming and specialized supports for identified students
- Special education student files are reviewed annually at the school level

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# Programming Options

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- Inclusion
  - Available for **all** students with special education needs
  
- Congregated (segregated) programming
  - Specific programs that address learning needs (eg: learning disabilities)

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# Congregated Programs Offered



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- Cognitive disabilities- mild to severe
- Deaf and hard of hearing
- Autism Spectrum Disabilities
- Behavioral and emotional needs
- Gifted
- Communication Disability
- Early Childhood Education- Mild to severe needs
- Literacy (these students are not identified by Alberta Education as students with special education needs)
- Learning Disabilities

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# Inclusion Pilot Project 2008

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- 6 schools
- 3 elementary schools
- 2 elementary junior high schools
- 1 junior high school

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# Purpose of the Pilot

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- Research and determine best practices
- How to support schools/students/teachers
- What are the barriers within our district?



# Supports for Schools

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Consultants- **direct service to students/schools**

- **Psychologists**
- **Reading specialists**
- **Social workers**
- **Aboriginal workers**
- **Occupational therapy**
- **Physical therapy**
- **Speech and language/Communication**
- **Behavior**
- **Curriculum**
- **Audiology**
- **Vision**
- **Adapted Physical Education**

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# Journey

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