

605.5 Inclusive Learning Supports – Early Childhood Services (ECS)

Policy

The Division shall provide a continuum of learning supports for children in Early Childhood Services (ECS) settings.

Definitions

Early Childhood Services (ECS): funded educational programs for children prior to grade one.

Program Unit Funding (PUF): is available to approved ECS operators and school authorities for young children who are 2 years 8 months and less than 6 years of age by September 1 and who have been identified with a severe disability/delay.

Regulations

1. Wherever possible, supports and services shall be provided within the ECS setting of the child's neighbourhood school. In some situations the identified supports and services may be provided at a location other than the child's neighbourhood school.
2. Identification, admission, and placement decisions shall be based upon an assessment of the child's needs and in consultation with the parent/guardian and referring agencies.
 - 2.1. Authority for admission and placement of children who qualify for program unit or mild/moderate funding shall rest with the Associate Superintendent Instructional Services, or designate.
3. Program design and delivery shall be based upon an assessment of the child's needs.
 - 3.1. The school shall be responsible for programming for children with mild or moderate needs who qualify for funding through Alberta Education. The Associate Superintendent Instructional Services, or designate, shall have authority to assign responsibility for the design and delivery of programs/services for children who qualify for PUF.
4. Programming for ECS children shall be consistent with Alberta Education regulations and guidelines.
5. The Division shall consult with and inform the parent/guardian on all decisions regarding supports and services.

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6. Division staff shall work in partnership with the parent/guardian and the community to meet the needs of children.
7. The Division shall ensure that inclusive learning supports for children include strategies for:
 - 7.1. early intervention;
 - 7.2. referral by or to outside agencies;
 - 7.3. a variety of levels of assessment;
 - 7.4. collaborative planning and programming;
 - 7.5. coordinating supports and services;
 - 7.6. transition planning; and
 - 7.7. dispute resolution and appeals in accordance with Division policy.
8. Procedures associated with the implementation of this policy shall be consistent with those of Procedure 605.1 Inclusive Learning Supports, with the following exceptions:
 - 8.1. The Division may accept assessments completed by outside agencies for determination of program eligibility; and
 - 8.2. The Division may provide supports for children with identified needs in kindergarten, private preschools, early education programs and other settings approved by Instructional Services.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy.

References

Alberta School Act:	Section 30
Division Policies:	602.1 Early Childhood Services, 501.2 Eligibility for Early Childhood Services, 505.9 Appeals
Alberta Education:	Standards for the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education (2006)