

System Direction 4 – 3  
*Student Services*

The Board of Education believes that all students, including those with special needs and those challenged by circumstance, are fully participating members of a community of learners. Consistent with current legislation, the board believes that Student Services programs and services should be provided throughout the K-12 system in the most inclusive setting possible, notwithstanding that in some specific circumstances alternative programs or service models may be requested, as appropriate and/or beneficial to the student.

Toward this end, the board authorizes the development of specialized services and programs supporting the curricular and behavioural goals of individual students with unique needs, groups of students, and schools in general.

The Student Services Department shall describe these services and programs through an operations manual. These shall be consistent with the Ministry of Education's policies and procedures, except when adapted to local circumstance or when constrained by the limitations of financial and temporal resources. Any significant variation from ministry policies and procedures shall be approved by the Board of Education.

The board believes that there should be a continuum of educational services which may include school and district-level programs.

Principals administer the educational programs in a school and are required to adhere to the *Student Services Department Operations Manual* or receive prior approval for variance. The Student Services Department is required to provide direction, support, and advice to schools regarding program implementation, evaluation and review.