
Education Inclusion Updates – September 2014

Revised Sample Individualized Program Planning Templates

Alberta Education recently revised the sample Individualized Program Planning (IPP) templates that were released last fall. They can be used for students identified with special education needs, and their use is optional. The templates, available in both English and French, incorporate all of the components currently required in the *Standards for Special Education, Amended 2004*, and focus on instructional planning and academic learning.

The format, process, and content of these templates were informed by the results of schools participating in the Inclusive Education Planning Tool pilot, responses to the Individual Program Plan Components online survey, and feedback from the IPP Provincial Discussion held in February 2014.

The IPP templates are located in the Inclusive Education Library, found at www.learnalberta.ca/content/ieptLibrary/lib07.html.

For further information, please contact:

Leah Dushenski, Senior Manager, School Accreditation and Standards Branch by email at Leah.Dushenski@gov.ab.ca or at 780-427-6894 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Lise Belzile, Team Leader – Inclusive Education, French Language Education Services by email at Lise.Belzile@gov.ab.ca or at 780-422-7794 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Special Education Coding Criteria 2014/2015 and Handbook for the Identification and Review of Students with Severe Disabilities 2014/2015

General Information – All School Authorities:

Special Education Coding Criteria and the *Handbook for the Identification and Review of Students with Severe Disabilities* have been updated for 2014/2015, and are now available on the Extranet.

The *Ministerial Order on Student Learning* (#001/2013) provides an overview of the goals, expectations and outcomes for an inclusive Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system. This framework supports enabling all students to succeed and achieve the goals and expectations set out by this order. Some students may require specialized supports and services to attain the educational outcomes within the programs of study. *Special Education Coding Criteria 2014/2015* and the *Handbook for the Identification and Review of Students with Severe Disabilities 2014/2015* have been updated to support the direction laid out as per the Ministerial Order on Student Learning.

Special Education Coding Criteria outlines criteria within specific categories to assist school authorities with identifying the learning needs of children and students who may require specialized supports and services. The *Handbook for the Identification and Review of Students with Severe Disabilities* provides more detailed information to assist school authorities in identifying students who may require this support. Changes to these documents include updates from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – Fifth edition (DSM-5). While information from the DSM was considered, the intent of these documents is not to provide diagnostic criteria for clinicians, but rather to provide educators

with information to help identify and program for students/early childhood services children with an identified need.

Private and Charter Schools:

For 2014/2015, private and charter schools will continue to be required to use severe disabilities codes, to receive funding for grades 1 to 12. The *Handbook for the Identification and Review of Students with Severe Disabilities* details the documentation requirements for severe disabilities funding approvals and timelines for funding applications.

For more information on severe disabilities funding, please see the 2014/2015 Funding Manual, Section 3.3, found at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/manual.aspx>

In order to access the Extranet website, please visit: <https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/login/default2.asp>, or contact the Client Services Help Desk at 780-427-5318 (dial 310-0000 for toll-free access in Alberta).

For additional information, please contact Connie Ohl, Learner Services Branch, by email at connie.ohl@gov.ab.ca or at 780-427-5419 (dial 310-0000 for toll-free access in Alberta).

Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools

There is growing evidence about the long-term value of promoting the positive mental health of children and young people, through more effective educational services and school programs. Schools and the community can play an important role in reaching youth and determining their level of mental health. Effective mental health promotion in educational and community settings in turn strengthens the core objectives of education and the youth sector.

A focus on positive mental health for students, families, schools and communities contributes to building a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. Students who are mentally healthy are better able to achieve success and fulfillment as engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit. They are more likely to build healthy relationships with others, value diversity and demonstrate respect, empathy and compassion. Children and youth who demonstrate positive mental health are motivated, resourceful, self – reliant and confident – all necessary skills to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools Initiative serves 55 communities and 151 schools across Alberta. The recent Government of Alberta 2014 announcement included an additional \$28 million specific to the Children's Mental Health Plan and the Mental Health Capacity Building Initiative. At this time Alberta Health is proceeding with three-year grant funding to sustain these projects.

- The initiative is led by Alberta Health Services in collaboration with Alberta Education and funded through grants from Alberta Health.
- The purpose of the initiative is to establish projects which implement integrated, school and community mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention programs.
- Project Coordinators from across the province are available to share training opportunities, resources and information and about positive mental health supports for the community.

The announcement of new funding to continue the existing Mental Health Capacity Building projects is exciting news to all who benefit from the initiative.

More information about supporting positive mental health in schools is available at www.education.alberta.ca/admin/supportingstudent/safeschools/mhm.aspx.

For further information, please contact Andrea Morrison, Senior Manager, School and Community Supports for Children and Youth Branch, at Andrea.Morrison@gov.ab.ca or at 780-415-9313, or Dena Davis, Senior Manager, School and Community Supports for Children and Youth Branch, at Dena.Davis@gov.ab.ca or at 780-422-6547. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

New Professional Development Resource: Educational Change and Leadership

Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium has added a new resource, Educational Change and Leadership to its Inclusive Education Professional Development Resources website at <http://www.inclusiveeducationpdresources.com/school-leadership-inclusion/david-edyburn.php#1>. These video clips and accompanying learning guides create opportunities for district and school leaders to explore emerging trends and challenges around the use of technologies to support student success. Each learning guide is also aligned to one of the five Learning and Technology Policy Framework policy directions, which can be found at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/policyframework.aspx>.

For more information, please contact Leah Dushenski, Senior Manager, School Accreditation and Standards Branch, at Leah.Dushenski@gov.ab.ca or 780-427-6894. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

Every Student Counts: Keeping Kids in School

The vision of Inspiring Education is that all students will be engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit. The *Every Student Counts: Keeping Kids in School Report* is a result of a two-year initiative that involved gathering and analyzing information collected from research, questionnaires, surveys, and focus group discussions. The report can be found at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/resources/kidsinschool.aspx>.

The report is intended to help school authorities in Alberta keep students engaged and attending school. It focuses on the reasons students are at risk for non-attendance and provides effective prevention and intervention strategies to re-engage students. In addition, the report includes questions for reflection that school leaders can use to help enhance staff understanding of the issues behind student non-attendance.

For further information, please contact Randy Risto, Education Manager, School and Community Supports for Children and Youth Branch, at Randy.Risto@gov.ab.ca or at 780-427-5401. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

New E-Learning Website for School Staff Supporting Students with FASD and Other Disabilities

The Positive Behaviour Supports for Children website, www.pbosc.info, was developed by Mount Royal University with support from the Government of Alberta. It is a series of related websites designed to enhance the capacity of families, aides, and school staff in promoting positive behaviours, managing challenging behaviours, and supporting students' learning and success.

The site has added two new portals:

- Through a Child's Eye, to help parents and professionals talk about different diagnoses and how they affect children's perspectives of the world; and
- Planning for Success, to help families, service providers, and Family Support for Children with Disabilities workers develop effective Individualized Service Plans.

For further information, please contact Marni Pearce, Director, School and Community Supports for Children and Youth Branch, at Marni.Pearce@gov.ab.ca or at 780-422-5045. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

3rd Annual Alberta Gay-Straight Student Alliance Conference, GSA 2014

The 3rd Annual Alberta Gay-Straight Student (GSA) Alliance Conference takes place Saturday, November 22, 2014 at the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta in Edmonton, as part of the province's Bullying Prevention Awareness Week activities.

This conference is free for students and teachers who have a GSA or are interested in starting one in their school. Participants will learn strategies to help create, support and sustain GSAs; network with other students and teachers across the province; and learn more about sexual and gender minority youth issues through workshops, resources, and a keynote presentation. It is hoped that this conference will help connect, educate and inspire inclusive school communities that value diversity and difference, as part of creating safe, welcoming and respectful school environments.

For more information, including how to register, visit www.ismss.ualberta.ca/GSA2014.

#8000Mentors

This summer, the Alberta government launched #8000Mentors – a new multimedia campaign to match more mentors with children and youth in care, including Aboriginal and multicultural mentors, who can share important cultural experiences and connections with our young people. #8000Mentors is about providing them a pathway of hope and opportunity to overcome challenges and live their dreams. Research shows that strong relationships between mentors and youth improve academic performance, behavior, and attitudes toward school. Please help spread the word about this campaign to your family, friends and colleagues. Visit www.albertamentors.ca/8000mentors, or call 1-844-370-1768, to learn more and sign up to be a mentor.

Grant Funding – Family and Community Safety Program

The Family and Community Safety program, a grant funding initiative led by Human Services, will support community-led projects that address issues that affect family and community safety. The fund is intended to build on the good work already ongoing in communities, and strengthen these efforts through supporting new and innovative programs.

Applications are being accepted until November 14, 2014, for projects that address issues such as abuse or violence prevention efforts, positive children's mental health, and the need for mentors. Community agencies or groups are strongly encouraged to partner with other organizations in their application and focus on initiatives that help build stronger families and communities. Successful applications will have an emphasis on community-initiated and led strategies and community plans that positively impact

vulnerable Albertans, families and communities. Please consider sharing this information with your schools' community contacts.

For more information on the grant funding, including eligibility and how to apply, visit <http://humanservices.alberta.ca/abuse-bullying.html>.

The 2014 Healthy School Communities Award



Do you know someone who supports student or school health and wellness? Many people and groups help make our school communities healthier for children and youth. Let's recognize the great work they do by nominating them for the Healthy School Communities Award!

Award categories are:

- Individual Champions: an individual (e.g., student, family member, volunteer or school staff member) who has made outstanding contributions to their healthy school community.
- School Champions: a student group, parent group, school staff or wellness committee who has made outstanding contributions to their healthy school community.
- Community Champions: not-for-profit, community associations, local/municipal organizations, or businesses who have made outstanding contributions to supporting healthy school communities.
- School District Champions: an individual or group working at the district level (e.g., superintendent, trustee, consultants or a committee) who has demonstrated school district engagement in supporting healthy school communities.

The deadline for applications is October 31, 2014.

The award celebration will be held at the Shaping the Future Conference in Kananaskis in January 2015. Information on the conference is available at www.everactive.org/shaping-the-future.

The award application form can be downloaded at www.healthyalberta.com/1281.htm or accessed at www.healthyalberta.com.

Send completed forms to:
Healthy School Communities Award
24th Floor, 10025 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton AB T5J 1S6

Applications forms and inquiries can also be directed to health.u@gov.ab.ca.

CMEC Early Learning and Development Framework

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) Early Learning and Development Framework, available at www.cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/327/2014-07-Early-Learning-Framework-EN.pdf, provides guidance for the development of policies and programs that could have far-reaching benefits for children, parents, and families. The framework was developed as a resource to inform the ongoing development of individual jurisdictional strategies, policies and curricula in early

childhood learning and development. It builds on provincial/territorial objectives and the pan-Canadian approach to early learning and development in order to provide guiding principles for education policy and/or curriculum in support of the development of quality early learning programs.

The framework represents the ministers' ongoing commitment to working with their partners across sectors so that all children have access to high-quality learning experiences in their formative years.

For further information, please contact David Woloshyn, Executive Director, Education Supports Sector, at David.Woloshyn@gov.ab.ca or at 780-422-6554. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

Kindergarten to Grade 12 Curriculum Implementation for the 2014/2015 School Year

Existing provincial programs of study are still in effect. Updates to current programs of study for the 2014/2015 school year include:

- (draft) Career and Technology Foundations: Grades 5–9 (provincial implementation scheduled for September 2015, www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/ctf.aspx);
- Career and Technology Studies: Grades 10–12;
www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/cts/program-of-studies.aspx;
- Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 9 www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/math.aspx;
and
- Science: Grades 7–12 www.ducation.alberta.ca/teachers/program/science/programs.aspx.

More information and the list of Provincially Authorized Senior High School Courses and Course Codes, 2014/2015, is available on Alberta Education's website at www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/curric-implementation.aspx.