

What Parents Need to Know About the Inclusive Education Planning Tool Pilot



This year your child's school will be one of over 200 schools in the province participating in a pilot of the new digital resource the Inclusive Education Planning Tool (IEPT) for teachers of Grades 1 – 9. This will be an opportunity for teachers in the school to reflect upon, refresh, plan and develop new instructional practices so they are better able to meet the diverse learning needs of all students in their classroom.

What is the Inclusive Education Planning Tool?

The Inclusive Education Planning Tool is a digital resource for teachers developed by Alberta Education. It offers a new way to think about and plan for classroom instruction that will enhance instructional practices, with the goal to better meet the diverse learning needs of all students.

Why is my child's school participating in this one-year pilot?

This is one way your child's school is making a commitment to inclusive education and to creating a school culture in which all students feel a sense of belonging. The teachers in your child's school will be committing to working in new and different ways to better meet the needs of every student in their classroom.

How do teachers use the IEPT?

During the first two months of the school year, teachers use different ways to gather and record information about individual students' learning preferences, interests, and social participation. Teachers also gather data about students' strengths and needs related to language arts. The tool then uses this information to identify possible supports and strategies that will benefit each student.

In addition, this tool provides customized information and strategies on the implications for learning and social well-being of various medical conditions and disabilities. Teachers also have access to strategies for supporting the successful social participation of students in a variety of learning and school contexts.

All of this information creates a learner profile that teachers can use to inform classroom planning and instruction through the school year. These profiles are customizable and can be shared with members of the student's learning team, including parents.



Will all students in the school have learner profiles?

The Inclusive Education Planning Tool begins with the entire class, and teachers add student information to build class profiles. These profiles provide at-a-glance information that teachers can use to enhance their planning and instruction to support all the students in their classroom.

As well, teachers can develop more comprehensive individual learner profiles that identify individual student strengths, needs and required supports. Many teachers may choose to complete learner profiles for all of their students. At a minimum, teachers participating in the pilot will complete a profile for all Grade 1 to 9 students who are currently working below grade level expectations, are in need of additional support and/or who are identified with special education needs.

What if my child had an Individualized Program Plan (IPP) last year?

To allow teachers more time for using the IEPT and building learner profiles, schools participating in the IEPT pilot will not create IPPs for students in the 2011–2012 school year. Much of the information that would be typically captured in an IPP will be captured in a learner profile. The one major difference is that, rather than developing individual student goals, teachers will use the language arts program of studies as a starting point of instruction, and will identify supports and strategies that will

ensure the student has successful learning experiences.

Will I have access to the IEPT and will it require my signature?

The Inclusive Education Planning Tool is a teacher planning tool so only teachers will have access and no parent signatures will be required. However, teachers can generate and share customized reports of your child's learner profile. This profile can be shared and discussed at regularly scheduled reporting periods or at any other time throughout the year. Parent signatures will continue to be required on progress reports.

Will this change how I participate in my child's learning?

This new planning process continues to recognize and value parent input and participation. There will be opportunities for you to provide information and insight about your child's learning strengths and needs throughout the year, and to discuss your child's progress and any emerging needs or concerns. You will continue to be an important member of your child's learning team!

