



Policy: IHBL
Subject: Planning in Education

Policy

The Red River Valley School Division Board of Trustees supports the rights of all students to receive appropriate educational programming that fosters their participation in both the academic and social life of the school.

Protocol

Planning to meet the needs of all students in the school division is a priority. Teachers plan to meet the needs of all students in their classes and use instructional practices for a diverse group of learners. For students who have exceptional learning needs, the teacher, parents/legal guardians, student (when appropriate) and school team plan specifically for the individual student.

Procedure

The Red River Valley School Division annually engages in planning, assessment, monitoring and reporting to parents/legal guardians and the community on school division and school goals (*PSA41[1], 58.1, 58.6*), including:

- supports and services available to students
- information on how to access the supports and services
- information on expenditures related to student services.

Individual Education Planning

When a school team has identified that a student has exceptional learning needs that require student-specific outcomes that are additions to, are different from, or exceed the curricular outcomes, an individual education planning process should occur.

The Department of Education requires an individual education plan (IEP) when:

- it is not reasonable to expect the pupil to meet or approximate the expected learning outcomes
- a student has a Modified (M) course designation or the Individualized Programming (I) designation in Grades 9-12.

School teams identify the academic, social, emotional and/or behavioural outcomes that are required to support student learning in the classroom in a student's IEP. Parents/legal guardians should be included in the planning. As well, progress should be monitored, documented and reported to parents/legal guardians.

The Red River Valley School Division uses a variety of terms to identify the written document for student specific planning. For example, some may use the term individual education plan (IEP), behaviour intervention plan (BIP) or adapted education plan (AEP). An AEP is a plan that outlines processes for meeting learning outcomes in the regular curriculum. Many students who are able to access the regular curriculum and do not require individualized programming, may require a variety of interventions or support in the areas of health care, remediation or technological adaptations.

The Red River Valley School Division will:

1. Provide parents/legal guardians with the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect students' education (PSA 58.6, MR 155/05).
2. Provide parents/legal guardians with the information needed to make informed decisions (PSA 58.6).
3. Involve parents/legal guardians in planning, problem solving and decision making related to student-specific outcomes (PSA 58.6, MR 155/05).
4. Require principals to designate a case manager and ensure that IEPs are developed with the assistance of the teacher and other in-school personnel (MR 155/05).
5. Ensure that written IEPs are developed, revised, implemented, monitored and evaluated at least annually for all students identified as having exceptional learning needs (PSA 58.6, MR 155/05).
6. Inform parents/legal guardians of students' progress at the regularly scheduled reporting periods throughout the year or more frequently if programming changes are deemed appropriate (PSA 58.6, MR 468/88).
7. Involve parents/legal guardians, students (when appropriate), teachers and other professionals in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of students' IEPs (MR 155/05).
8. Include in each IEP, information about the student's current level of performance and achievement relative to identified learning outcomes in the provincial curriculum and/or the student specific outcomes (MR 155/05).
9. Ensure that students who have reached the age of 16 have a transition plan as part of the IEP where required according to interdepartmental protocol agreements (MR 155/05, provincial transition protocols).
10. Identify school principals as being accountable for the delivery and implementation of educational programming and services for students with exceptional learning needs (MR 155/05, MR 468/88).
11. Document, in the IEPs, the formal review of students' progress, at the schools' regular reporting periods (PSA 58.6, MR 155/05, MR 468/88).
12. Ensure that access to IEPs and student records complies with the *Manitoba Pupil File Guidelines*, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *The Personal Health Information Act*.

Red River Valley School Division planning in education means:

1. Providing teachers of students with exceptional learning needs with access to related professional learning opportunities.
2. Ensuring that schools have access to the necessary supports to provide consultation, planning and problem solving related to programming for students with exceptional learning needs.
3. Obtaining written parental/legal guardian confirmation on IEPs to indicate involvement in the IEP development process.
4. Documenting the reasons for refusal and/or actions undertaken by schools to obtain consent and/or resolve concerns in cases when parents/legal guardians refuse to participate in the IEP process.

Red River Valley School Division Principals are responsible for:

1. Ensuring that an IEP is prepared for a student who is unable to access the regular curriculum.
2. Ensuring that the IEP:
 - is prepared with the assistance of the student's teacher(s) and other in-school personnel
 - takes into account the student's behavioural and health-care needs (if any)
 - is consistent with provincial protocols respecting a student's transition to and from school
 - is updated annually, or sooner if required by a change in the student's behaviour or needs.
3. Ensuring that a student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and the student, if appropriate, are given the opportunity to participate in preparing and updating the student's IEP and to be accompanied and assisted by a person of their choosing.