



Bioregional Education Association

Oak & Orca School (OL)

<https://oakandorca.ca>

Special Education Policy

Special Education Program

A special education program supports all identified special needs in the School. A special education team oversees the special education program.

Special education funding is allocated to the program as a whole and not directly to specific students. A special education budget is drawn up each year. Consideration is given to the needs of the School as a whole in addition to those of individual students.

Individual Needs and Special Education Needs

Each student is considered to have individual and unique needs to be addressed and balanced with the needs of other students, staff, and the school as a whole. Every effort will be made to address student needs with the resources normally available in the online learning program.

Special education needs include any needs that require additional resources, not normally available in the online learning program. Special education needs can be identified by the School or externally by a professional. If a parent is seeking a Ministry special education designation from the School, appropriate documentation must be provided to the team in a timely manner.

Where a teacher has identified that additional resources are required to meet a student's social, emotional, academic or behavioural needs, the needs will be reviewed by the principal. The principal, after consulting with various parties including the teacher and parent, will determine whether the needs will be identified as special education needs. The principal may seek the professional documentation necessary to determine if a Ministry designation is appropriate.

Integration into the Online Learning Program

Every effort will be made to support the student's special education needs without outwardly labeling or identifying the student as "special". Effort will be made to ensure that the student is able to participate in the online learning program to the best of their ability.

Support workers may act as educational assistants to the student in the family home. This support worker is an educational support only, and is not to be responsible as the sole caregiver to the student.

Some support materials and equipment may be provided on loan in the home. Items on loan must be returned to the school when the student leaves the program or no longer needs them unless a specific arrangement is made for the family to purchase the items by paying to the school the remaining value (as determined by the school).

While special education funding is allocated to the program as a whole and not directly to specific students, since students are learning at home, a portion of the funding may be allocated to the home-learning needs of each Ministry funded student.

A special education budget is drawn up each year. Consideration is given to the needs of the School as a whole in addition to those of individual students.

Support Workers or Teaching Assistants for Students Learning at Home

Where funding is provided for an educational assistant to assist in meeting the special education needs of one or more home-learning students, the support worker will be contracted by the school to provide the service in the child's home or to support the integration into a particular program in the community.

The parent is responsible for ensuring that there is a caregiver or parent in the home while the support worker is there. The support worker does not take the place of a parent/caregiver, and should not be alone with the student. The support worker is contracted to provide specific educational services or specific care services as outlined in the IEP.

The parent will have the opportunity to be involved in the selection process of the support workers who will be working within the home. However, it is the school who is responsible for entering into any contracts, deciding on the number of hours, setting the duties and communicating directly with contractors as to their work in the home.

Support workers must provide the school with any required documentation, including but not limited to: Ministry of Justice criminal record check, resume, references, and copies of credentials. The wage will be determined by the school, based on experience and training.

A criminal record check through the Ministry of Justice must be completed at minimum every five years in the school's name. Police Criminal Record Checks do not suffice.

Support workers must follow the procedures outlined by the school in order to be compensated.

Individual Education Plans

The special education needs of a student, as identified by the School or by an outside professional, will be reviewed by the special education team. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Case Management Plan (CMP) will be drafted to guide how the special education needs will be met.

If available, the parent will be consulted on each plan prior to its implementation, and on a yearly basis as the plan changes. IEPs and CMPs are considered living documents, and are supported as such.

Special Education Funding

If a review indicates special education needs that require services outside of those typically provided by the school and is suggestive of a designation covered by provincial special education funding, further assessment by a professional may be necessary. If the parent does not wish to have the child assessed, the family may be asked to locate funding to support the student's needs. If a parent does not wish the school to apply for special education funding, the family may be asked to locate funding to support the student's needs.

If a parent feels that the student has professional or medical documentation to support a special education designation and associated services, the family may request a review. The school will review the documentation submitted, and determine if a special education designation is appropriate. The school may request further documentation from the parent as needed.

All special education funding, whether provided by the School, the Ministry, the parent, or a donor is allocated to the special education program, and is seen as equal in the budgeting process. It is shared amongst all special education students as the school sees fit.

School Completion Certificate ("Evergreen")

A student with special needs may achieve a School Completion Certificate ("Evergreen") if they have an appropriate Individual Education Plan. This certificate is awarded to the student upon completing the goals of their educational program other than graduation. The decision for a student to pursue an Evergreen is not made prior to Grade 10. Such a decision is made with informed consent of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).