

This Strategic Plan is rooted in the Moore Decision in which the Supreme Court of Canada ruled “that students with disabilities are entitled to receive the accommodation measures that they need to access and benefit from the service of public education”

Minister of Education Action Items

- 1) Advocate to the Minister of Education to include mandatory early screening for readiness for learning and risk of learning problems as part of education legislation and mandate school boards to provide a policy on how they implement said screening
- 2) Recommend to the Minister of Education that certified teachers require a minimum of 4 professional courses in special needs education and that recertification requires a minimum of one professional development course in special needs education on an annual basis
- 3) Advocate to the Minister of Education to require EAs to have training in special needs education
- 4) Advocate to the Minister of Education to require that school boards implement policy requiring that special education classes be taught only by teachers with certification in special education
- 5) Advocate to the Minister of Education, school boards, and administrators that class size and composition be based on student needs
- 6) Advocate to the Minister of Education to require the creation of an IPP/ISP for all children who are diagnosed with a learning challenge, not just those who are coded
- 7) Advocate to the Minister of Education to increase audits of IPP/ISP's and educate parents on the importance of meaningful parent involvement in the development of IPP/ISP's
- 8) Advocate to the Minister of Education to require school boards to inform parents regarding the standards, procedures and processes for accessing consulting services including reporting and timelines; communicate those clearly to all parents
- 9) Advocate to the Minister of Education to support both inclusive and specialized class settings
- 10) Advocate to the Minister of Education to require school boards to develop and adopt metrics to identify compliance with the Supreme Court of Canada's provisions that special needs support will be appropriate, timely, and of sufficient duration (Moore Decision)

- 13) Request that the Minister of Education hire a Student Education Advocate to help
- 14) Highlight cost analysis of NOT addressing special needs education to the Minister of Education as indicted in the Roeher Report (Learning Disability Association of Canada)
- 15) Recommend that the Alberta Government launch an advertising campaign to educate the public on special needs education and the benefit to society, if it is prioritized

Minister of Advanced Education Action Items

- 1) Advocate to the Minister of Advanced Education to work with post-secondary institutions to require a master's degree to become a teacher or raise the entrance requirements to a bachelor of education program equivalent to other professional programs such as rehab medicine, OT, social work
- 2) Advocate to the Minister of Advanced Education to require that all post-secondary education students must complete a minimum of one special needs course per year of education
- 3) Advocate to the Minister of Advanced Education to require that all education students have a practicum in a classroom working with at least 3 children identified with IPP/ISP's

Minister of Health Action Items

- 1) Advocate to the Minister of Health to create a system where all children are screen for developmental milestones prior to entering the school system
- 2) Advocate to the Minister of Health to implement a mental health plan to educate professionals in the education system on effective de-escalation strategies and positive behaviour supports for students

School Boards: Trustees and Administrators

- 1) Advocate to school boards and administrators to make use of available screening tools to identify at-risk students and monitor their progress
- 2) Advocate to school boards and administrators that professionals (speech, OT, PT, psych, social workers and other relevant consultants) be on staff at every school or per "x" amount of students
- 3) Advocate to school boards to be accountable for follow up on recommendations contained in assessments

- 4) Advocate to school boards, administrators and the Minister of Education that class size and composition be based on student needs
- 5) Advocate to school boards to support both inclusive and specialized class settings
- 6) Advocate to school boards and administrators for meaningful collaboration between teachers and parents, involving specialists (OT, SLP, Psych)

School Councils Action Items

- 1) Work with the Alberta School Councils' Association to galvanize a grassroots movement to educate the public on the benefits of a well-funded special education system