

Focus on the Continuum of Supports and Services Board Presentation – Jan. 2017



MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

Inclusive Education

Inclusion is about ALL learners.

Children and Students

Inclusive Education calls for flexible and responsive learning environments.

An inclusive education system responds to the needs of all learners and addresses factors that contribute to the achievement gap.

What is a Continuum of Supports and Services?

A continuum of supports and services refers to a skill set required to meet the identified needs of learners.

A continuum plans for all learners and is instrumental in maximizing the success of each learner.

Why?

Medicine Hat School District has focused on reducing barriers and engaging families in relationships to support their child in their educational journey.

It is the school system and service providers who need to be flexible and responsive to make this happen.

Psychology Services

Past Practice

- Previously the District Psychologist was not involved in process before grade one.
- Identification of candidates

Psychology Services

Current Practice

- District psychologist works with early learning team
- District psychologist becomes aware of children's needs in early learning.

Psychology Services

Future Practice

- Completely align the services between early learning and grade 1-12

Service Provision

Past Practice

- Two Directors of Student Services for students in grade 1-12, and a Director of Primary Services.
- Service providers were different from early childhood services to grade 1-12.
- Mental Health Consultants for grade 1-12
- Mental Health Capacity Building support was only up to Grade 9.

Service Provision

Current Practice

- Three Directors of Student Services
- We have begun the alignment between early childhood services and grade 1-12.
- Mental health therapist supporting children in Early Learning.
- Mental Health Capacity Building for all

Service Provision

Future Practice

- Continue to support all children/students in schools
- We plan to continue the alignment of all service providers from ECS to grade 12.

Learning Coaches, Collaborative Planning Circles (CPCs) & Central office Alignment

Past Practice

- Learning Coaches
- CPC's were initiated at all schools to be held on a monthly basis.
- 2 Directors of Student Services and one Director of Primary Services

Learning Coaches, Collaborative Planning Circles (CPCs) & Central office Alignment

Current Practice

- Learning Coaches beginning to work in Early Learning to Grade 12.
- Three Directors of Student Services

Learning Coaches, Collaborative Planning Circles (CPCs) & Central office Alignment

Future Practice

- School based coaches will support all - Early Learning to Grade 12
- Collaborative Conversations will be embedded in practice at each school

Individual Support Plans

Past Practice

- Different template for Early Learning/Kindergarten and for grade 1-12.

Individual Support Plans

Current Practice

- We have moved to an ISP based on Alberta Inclusive Education Templates. All ISPs are on the Dossier Platform which links to demographic information.
- ISPs are focused on interests and are strength based.
- Classroom standardized assessments such as Fountas & Pinnell, and Early Years Evaluation are uploaded on Dossier.

Individual Support Plans

Future Practice

- ISPs will be developed that reflect a Collaborative Response Model.

Professional Learning

Past Practice

- PD opportunities separate for Early Learning/Kindergarten and grade 1 – 12
- Parent sessions organized for Early Learning/Kindergarten families

Professional Learning

Current Practice

- PD activities responsive to support the needs of children and students
- Learning Coaches, Learning Support Teachers, ELP and Kindergarten teachers attend common PD
- Educational Assistant PD
- Parent Sessions for all parents

Professional Learning

Future Practice

Collaborative planning continue to support the district vision and direction.

Summary

An inclusive education system responds to the needs of all children and students. It removes barriers and provides supports for the success of all learners. It is the continuum of supports that allows for children/students' success throughout their education through a collaborative and responsive approach to education