

SPECIALIZED ASSESSMENT

Background:

The Division supports the use of specialized assessments to determine the special educational programming needs of students/children.

Definitions:

Informed Consent:

means the parent/guardian/independent student:

- has been provided with all information relevant to the activity for which consent is sought;
- understands and agrees, in writing, to the carrying out of the activity for which the individual's consent is sought; and
- understands the granting of consent is voluntary and may be withdrawn at any time for any future action but may not be withdrawn for any action that has already occurred.

Specialized Assessment:

means individualized measurement across a variety of domains for the purpose of developing and providing individualized programming for students. Specialized assessment includes assessment of intellectual abilities, academic performance, emotional and behavioural development, and physical development relevant to students' educational performance.

Procedures:

1. The Division shall develop appropriate and consistent practices related to early and timely assessment and identification of students/children in need of specialized supports and services.
2. Consistent with Alberta Education requirements, the Division requires principals to develop and provide programming support for students/children with special education needs through the utilization of school-based screening, teacher assessment and observation, parent information and previous history.
3. If it is determined a specialized assessment would be beneficial, parents/guardians shall be consulted. A decision to proceed assumes the parents/guardians are likely to provide consent once such consent is sought.
4. Written informed consent of the parent/guardian or independent student shall be obtained for a specialized assessment or referral in keeping with the relevant procedures and professional obligations of the qualified professional.
5. Qualified professionals shall conduct specialized assessments, interpret results and provide programming recommendations to parents/guardians, teachers and other appropriate personnel.

6. Specialized assessments shall be conducted in accordance with the expectations outlined in Alberta Education's Standards for Psycho-educational Assessment and by the standards and guidelines set by each professional organization for its members.
7. Stakeholders shall be kept informed regarding the status of the request for specialized assessment and timelines for completion of the assessment and report/summary writing.
8. Results of specialized assessments, including the name of the person who conducted the assessment and the date of the assessment, shall be stored in the student record.
9. Release of information from a specialized assessment to a third party shall only be provided with written informed consent of the parent/guardian or independent student, or in compliance with a court order.
10. When a parent/guardian denies or withdraws consent for a specialized assessment, this must be documented with an explanation of the process followed to obtain consent. The documentation must be placed in the student record.
11. Parents/guardians or independent students are responsible for costs of specialized assessments obtained outside the school, unless the decision to obtain an outside specialized assessment is made by the Superintendent.

Reference:

Section 11, 18, 31, 33, 52, 53, 55, 56, 196, 197, 222 *Education Act*

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Practice Review of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation 92/2019

Student Record Regulation 97/2019

Ministerial Order 015/2004 – Standards for Special Education

Ministerial Order 028/2020 – Student Learning

Ministerial Order 001/2020 – Teaching Quality Standard

Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12

Achievement Testing Program Grades 3, 6, and 9 General Information Bulletin

Diploma Examinations Program General Information Bulletin

Principles for Fair Student Assessment Practices for Education in Canada