

SPECIALIZED SYSTEM PROGRAMS

Frequently Asked Questions



When is the application deadline?

Applications are due on Jan. 27, 2025 to request enrolment in a Specialized System Program for the 2025-26 school year. Families will likely start having conversations with their school teams much earlier in the year.

How can I find out more about the application process?

Questions about the application process should be directed to your current school. For students new to the Division, Specialized Supports staff (780-417-8219) will help answer questions and support next steps.

How can I find out more about the program before applying?

[Program descriptions](#) are available on the Division website. You may also contact the school offering the specific program you're interested in or Specialized Supports to learn more about it.

Do I need to live in the program school's attendance area for my child to be accepted into the program?

All Elk Island Public Schools resident students who are eligible for a program may apply. Priority is not given to students who are currently in that school's boundaries.

My child has multiple diagnoses and may be eligible for several programs. How do I know which program is the best fit?

Your child's school team are your partners in deciding the program that will best serve the needs of your child. In the case of multiple diagnoses, they'll determine which diagnosis should take priority and help develop a strategy to serve your child's educational needs most effectively.

Is a student able to join at any point during the school year?

Applications to EIPS Specialized System Programs must be submitted prior to the January deadline for requested registration in the following school year. Late applications will be considered in the spring, but placement is dependent on available space and program fit. Generally, students start in a Specialized System Program at the start of the school year rather than joining part way through the year.

If my child is eligible for the program, will they automatically be accepted?

While the Division does its best to accommodate the needs of all students, resources and space are limited. Sometimes students are waitlisted for programs for which they qualify.

How do I know if my child is accepted in a program?

The Division will notify all families who apply about the outcome by the end of the first week of February. If your child is recommended for placement in the program, you'll be required to complete a Specialized System Program Consent form which will be emailed to you directly.

What happens if my child is not accepted in a program?

Your school team will continue to provide educational programming, supported by the Division's specialized supports team and guided by your child's Instructional Support Plan.

If my child is accepted in a program, is transportation provided?

In most circumstances, transportation is available for students accepted in an EIPS Specialized System Program. Fees will apply. If your child is accepted, contact EIPS Student Transportation—at 780-417-8151 or st@eips.ca—to formally request busing, if required.