

## LINKS Program



The Learning - Individual Needs, Knowledge and Skills (LINKS) Program is a specialized system program designed to meet the needs of students with mild to severe/profound cognitive (intellectual) disabilities, who may also have physical, sensory, medical or behavioural difficulties. The focus of the program is to improve academic, communication, self-care, social, vocational and independent-living skills within a safe, structured and supported learning environment. LINKS students are working toward a high school certificate of completion or a certificate of high school achievement (knowledge and employability), rather than a high school diploma.

Flexible and responsive instruction is guided by an Instructional Support Plan (ISP), builds on individual strengths and needs, and follows the Alberta Education Programs of Study, with adaptations or modifications as necessary. The LINKS Program is supported by Elk Island Public Schools' Specialized Supports multi-disciplinary team.

### Benefits for Students

- Improved literacy and numeracy skills
- Improved social and communication skills
- Improved life skills and independence
- Improved sense of community and belonging

### Programming Priorities

- Smaller class size with more targeted instruction
- Building literacy and numeracy skills in a nurturing and structured environment, while providing opportunities to grow as part of the school community
- Integration in certain subjects based on students' ability to cope and individual learning needs

### Eligibility

Students must:

- be 6 to 18 years old as of December 31, in the year they'll enrol in the program;
- have a clinical diagnosis of an intellectual disability or a medical condition that inhibits their ability to cope with the demands of a regular classroom; and
- be a resident student of Elk Island Public Schools.

If you feel your child might be eligible, discuss your child's programming needs with your school team. They, along with the specialized supports consultant, can help to determine if the LINKS Program might be a potential fit for your child.

### Locations

- A.L. Horton Elementary (grades 1-6)
- Fort Saskatchewan Elementary (grades 1-6)
- Rudolph Hennig Junior High (grades 7-9)
- Lamont High (grades 7-12)
- Vegreville Composite High (grades 7-12)

### Questions about this program?

**Current EIPS families:**  
Contact your school team

**New EIPS families:**  
Contact EIPS' Supports for Students team at 780-417-8219

Updated January 2024

### FAQs

