

Focus Program



The Focus Program is a specialized system program designed to support the needs of students in grades 7-12 identified with neuropsychiatric disorders or a mental health diagnosis that impacts the student's ability to cope and learn in a traditional classroom or school environment. Students are supported both academically and socially through a safe and structured classroom environment with predictable and clearly articulated procedures and expectations. Core subject areas and optional courses are available through a variety of instructional settings including small-group instruction or regular programming. The program has a strong focus on goal setting, problem-solving and coping skills, support networks and social skill development. Focus students are working toward a high school diploma or a certificate of high school achievement (knowledge and employability).

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 as necessary. The Focus Program is supported by Elk Island Public Schools' Specialized Supports multi-disciplinary team.

Benefits for Students

- Improved coping strategies
- Improved problem-solving skills
- Improved interpersonal relationships

Programming Priorities

- Access to a calm, safe learning environment outside of the regular classroom
- Smaller class sizes with flexible scheduling
- Developing coping skills necessary to participate in regular programming
- Integration into regular classes based on students' ability to cope and individual learning needs

Eligibility

Students must:

- be 12 to 18 years old as of December 31, in the year they'll enrol in the program;
- have a clinical diagnosis of a mental health or neuropsychiatric disorder that's impacting the student's ability to cope and perform in a traditional school environment; 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 Focus Program might be a potential fit for your child.

Locations

- Clover Bar Junior High (grades 7-9)
- F.R. Haythorne Junior High (grades 7-9)
- Bev Facey Community High (grades 10-12)

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

