

## Special Needs Students and Individual Education Plans

A student with special needs has one or more of the following:

- a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature;
- a learning disability; or
- exceptional gifts or talents.

Many students with special needs will be able to meet the standards set out in the provincial curriculum with adaptations to the way they are taught or their learning is assessed. For some students, the prescribed curriculum outcomes are modified to meet the students' special needs.

Both adaptations and modifications must be outlined in the IEP.

The IEP is developed to meet the student's educational needs. It becomes, as its name suggests, a plan to enable the student to develop her individual potential.

**Individual Education Plans** are specifically designed for students as soon as practical after they are identified by the school board as students with special needs. An IEP describes program adaptations and/or modifications and the special services that are to be provided for the student. It is reviewed regularly and updated at least annually.

An IEP includes one or more of the following:

- learning outcomes that are different from, or are additions to, the expected learning outcomes set out in the provincial curriculum guide for a course, or subject and grade;
- a list of support services required for the student to achieve the learning outcomes established for the student, either the outcomes set out in the prescribed curriculum or individualized outcomes set for the student;
- a list of the adapted materials, or instructional or assessment methods required by the student to meet the learning outcomes established for the student.

An IEP will vary in length and complexity according to the severity of each student's special needs.

A short IEP might be adequate for students who only require a change in the procedures for examinations and tests or for those who need support for note-taking.

The IEP will be more complex and extensive for a student with multiple disabilities, and more people will be involved in planning it.