

**EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL NEEDS TASK FORCE**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Composition

The Special Needs Task Force consists of three Trustees approved at the January 11, 2011 Board Meeting.

The Superintendent of Schools has assigned appropriate staff to support the work of the Special Needs Task Force.

Parameters

All recommendations from the Task Force will be presented to the Conference Committee for recommendation to the Board of Trustees at a public board meeting.

The Task Force will support but not duplicate the administration's work with partners in improving the achievement of students with special education needs.

The Task Force will not duplicate work already completed through *Setting The Direction*; rather, it will build on that work to help the vision become a reality.

Purpose

To support the implementation of an inclusive education system*, as envisioned in the *Setting The Direction Framework*, in Edmonton Public Schools.

Deliverables

The Task Force will recommend actions to the Board that will move the District significantly forward toward the vision of an inclusive education system.

Process

1. Review the work that has already occurred.
2. Establish an advisory committee consisting of district staff and parent/community partners.
3. Attend Professional Learning Day called "*INCLUSION: Every Child is Successful*" with Dave Edyburn.
4. Gather information related to deliverables outlined above through two focus group conversations for parents/community members and two focus groups for staff members.

5. The opportunity be incorporated for Task Force members to observe three types of classrooms:
 - a) classrooms with students with special needs and educational assistants
 - b) classrooms with students with special needs without educational assistants
 - c) classrooms where all students have special needs.
6. Synthesize information and prioritize through an electronic survey with participants from focus groups.
7. Adjust process as required.
8. Review information and determine recommendations.

Amendments to the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference may be amended upon recommendation of the Special Needs Task Force and approval of the Board of Trustees.

Financial Resources

A maximum of \$25,000 will be provided to support the work of the Task Force.

* Definition

Inclusive education system is a way of thinking and acting that demonstrates universal acceptance of, and belonging for, all students. Inclusive education in Alberta means a value-based approach to accepting responsibility for all students. It also means that all students will have equitable opportunity to be included in the typical learning environment or program of choice. (*Setting The Direction Framework*, Government of Alberta, June, 2009, page 9)

Approved at the January 25, 2011 Board Meeting