

MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

BACKGROUND

The Board of Trustees of Medicine Hat School District No. 76 is committed to Inclusive Education. The Board of Trustees expects the District to be an inclusive education system with its values reflected in District programs, operations and practices.

At the core of inclusion is the concept of making differences ordinary so that all students have a place, feel valued and welcomed, and are equipped for success. (Setting the Direction – Action on Inclusion, 2010)

POLICY

Inclusion is about ensuring that each student belongs and receives a quality education, regardless of their ability, language, cultural background, gender or age.

GUIDELINES

The Board of Trustees believes that the District, as an inclusive system:

- welcomes, respects, accepts and supports children and their parents/guardians;
- provides for families a range of options in programs and programming choice;
- demonstrates an ongoing commitment to meet the needs of the diverse student population;
- provides staff with continuing opportunities for professional learning in support of achieving an inclusive education system;
- provides each student with relevant learning opportunities to support success;
- provides a continuum of specialized supports and services to all students that is consistent with the principles of inclusive education;
- maintains a high standard of responsiveness, open communication, and accountability;
- continually develops partnerships with community organizations.

The Board of Trustees believes that schools, as inclusive learning environments:

- visibly demonstrate the qualities of an inclusive education system;
- provide welcoming acceptance and belonging for all children and their parents/ guardians;
- work in partnership with parents/guardians in planning, problem solving and collaborative decision making;
- emphasize the achievement of learning outcomes for all students using effective instructional practices and specialized supports based on the learning needs of each individual student;
- model strength-based programming and assessment practices based on individual student needs.

**Approved:
October 21, 2014**

REFERENCES

[620 P 001](#): Supports and Services to Address Student Needs