

## Where do I find more information?

Edmonton Public Schools,  
429-8000, [www.epsb.ca](http://www.epsb.ca)

- Schools, Alternative Programs, Program Locations, Transportation, Special Education Programs, Special Education Parent Brochures, Consulting Services, Leadership Services

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Alberta Education,  
Special Programs, 422-6326,  
[www.education.gov.ab.ca](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca)

[www.education.gov.ab.ca/k\\_12/  
Specialneeds/resource.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/Specialneeds/resource.asp)

- Individualized Program Planning
- Focusing on Success: Teaching Students with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Building on Success: Helping Students Make Transitions from Year to Year

- Teaching Students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Building Strengths, Creating Hope

- The Learning Team: A Handbook for Parents of Children with Special Needs

[www.education.gov.ab.ca/k\\_12/  
curriculum/ParentResources.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/ParentResources.asp)

- Handbook for Aboriginal Parents of Children with Special Needs
- The Parent Advantage: Helping children become more successful learners at home and school, grade 1-9

Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS),  
[www.alis.gov.ab.ca/learning/  
pset/planning.asp](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/learning/pset/planning.asp)

- Planning for Post-Secondary Studies

## Support Organizations

- Alberta Association for Community Living, [www.aacl.org](http://www.aacl.org)
- Alberta Children's Services, [www.child.gov.ab.ca](http://www.child.gov.ab.ca)
- Canadian Council for Exceptional Children, <http://canadian.ccc.sped.org>
- Canadian Health Network, [www.canadian-health-network.ca](http://www.canadian-health-network.ca)
- Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders, [www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)
- Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education, [www.gatewayacl.org](http://www.gatewayacl.org)
- Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta, 466-1011, [www.ldaa-ec.ca](http://www.ldaa-ec.ca)
- Learning Disabilities Association of Canada, [www.ldac-taac.ca](http://www.ldac-taac.ca)
- National Centre for Learning Disabilities, [www.nclld.org](http://www.nclld.org)
- Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada, [www.tourette.ca](http://www.tourette.ca)

Edmonton Public Schools recognizes that students are individuals with unique needs and interests. To ensure that we provide an outstanding education to all, we offer a range of programs that allow students to find their own educational paths, explore their interests and discover their potential.

For further information, please contact your community school principal.

# Opportunity Program



DISTRICT  
CENTRE  
PROGRAMS  
FOR  
STUDENTS  
WITH  
SPECIAL  
NEEDS



## The Opportunity Program assists students with mild cognitive disabilities who struggle at school.

### How do I know that the Opportunity Program is right for my child?

The Opportunity Program assists students with mild cognitive disabilities and significant academic delays to complete schooling with skills for responsible independent living and employment. Students from five and one-half to nineteen years of age who meet eligibility requirements may attend.

If your child struggles at school, discuss your concerns with your child's teacher and school principal. Opportunity is one of several community school and special education programming offerings that may be considered to meet your child's educational needs.

### How does the program work?

Students with cognitive disabilities benefit from effective programming provided in positive and supportive learning environments.

Students are supported in smaller-sized classes by teachers with training in early childhood, elementary, secondary or special education. In addition, many staff have expertise in literacy programming. Classes include students of approximately the same age, most often within a three-year range. Students work with peers in a variety of school and community activities. Positive behaviour is consistently expected, with consideration for student age and development.

When required, a behaviour management plan is used to address concerns.

In Opportunity classrooms, staff carefully organize the learning process. Lessons are clear and often involve visual aids and active learning. Students practice skills, first with guidance, and then on their own. Within academic studies, students are taught work habits, personal, social and behaviour skills. They use different ways to learn, remember, organize and cope. Student growth is tracked carefully and programming is adjusted to meet individual needs.

Elementary Opportunity classes focus on intensive literacy and mathematics skill instruction. Science and social studies programming includes basic concepts and skills drawn from the Alberta Program of Studies.

The junior and senior high Opportunity Program continues to build academic skills but also prepares students for independent living and the world of work. Learning activities that take place in the classroom and community promote student independence. Students explore careers, practice life-skills and learn about ways to stay healthy and safe.



### What are the benefits of the program?

The Opportunity Program assists students to make academic gains, apply their skills in life and learn about their community and world. The program promotes a work ethic and helps students develop important skills for school, work and independent living.

### How will my child's progress be monitored and communicated?

Students, parents and teaching staff work together as a learning team to monitor achievement and other important outcomes. Each student's achievement is tracked regularly through a number of classroom assessments and selected district and provincial tests. Regular communication includes report cards, conferences, notes, agenda books and phone calls. In

addition, with parent input, staff develop an Individualized Program Plan (IPP) for each student. This is a plan of action to address the student's priority special education needs. The IPP process supports monitoring of progress, communication and advance planning for transitions. Each school year, parents and teaching staff work together to evaluate the continuing benefit of Opportunity programming for students.

### Where is the program located?

The Opportunity Program is offered in a number of elementary, junior and senior high schools throughout the city. For program locations, visit [www.epsb.ca](http://www.epsb.ca) or call Program Distribution at 429-8427. For information on student transportation, please visit <http://transportation.epsb.net> or call 429-8585.

### How does my child get into the program?

Contact your child's community school teacher and principal to discuss your child's abilities, achievement, interests, behaviour and needs. Your child's school will provide information about Opportunity eligibility and programming options. If your child currently attends a school outside of the district, contact Leadership Services at 429-8030 for information about entry into the district.

### What happens when my child leaves the program?

Options for students leaving the senior high Opportunity Program include adult training programs, post-secondary programs or employment. Some students benefit from supported living and work settings.

