

Introduction

The *Service Delivery Model for Student with Exceptionalities* supports a philosophy of inclusive education. The Department of Education of Newfoundland and Labrador defines inclusive education as:

- the right of all students to attend school with their peers, and to receive appropriate and quality programming
- a continuum of supports and services in the most appropriate setting (large group, small group, individualized) respecting the dignity of the child
- a welcoming school culture where all members of the school community feel they belong, realize their potential, and contribute to the life of the school
- a school community which celebrates diversity
- a safe and caring school environment

These tenets apply to all members of the school community regardless of economic status, gender, racial or religious background, academic ability or other facet of diversity.

An inclusive philosophy of education is infused within the culture, policies and practices of schools. The inclusive model embodies a more collaborative approach to teaching and learning. Within a school community, all members are encouraged to share responsibility for the learning and well-being of all students. The focus is on providing a classroom environment where responsive teaching is the norm and where strategies, materials and resources used are tailored to student profiles.

The *Service Delivery Model for Students with Exceptionalities* provides an inclusive framework for program delivery. It identifies prescribed curriculum, accommodations, modified prescribed curriculum and alternate programs, courses, and curriculum. The education of students with exceptionalities is a shared responsibility among school staff, parents and the community at large.

The *Service Delivery Model for Students with Exceptionalities* is a tool which describes programming options for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 who meet the criteria for an exceptionality as defined by the Department of Education. An **exceptionality** is a term used by the Department of Education to identify patterns of strengths and needs common to groups of students. These strengths and needs may be cognitive, emotional, behavioural, medical, social, and/or physical. Students with an exceptionality may access a range of school-based services depending on the students' needs and level of functioning. Categories of exceptionalities

(www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/studentsupportservices/exceptionalities.html) recognized by the Department of Education include brain injury; cognitive disorder; developmental delay; emotional, mental health, and/or behavioural

disorder; gifted and talented; hearing loss; health disorder; learning disability; pervasive developmental disorder; physical disability; speech and/or language disorder; and vision loss.