

HWDSB Resources to Help Elementary at Risk Students

Judith Bishop July 2009

General resources

- Many schools have after-school homework clubs and or after-school programs run by a community agency in their school .
- Boys literacy clubs
- Volunteers such as from Rotary, and McMaster students through Frontier College offer tutoring support within some schools
- Big Brothers mentoring program in the schools.
- Boys to Men mentoring program
- Project GO : girls only mentoring club
- CHAT: choosing healthy actions and thoughts a class-wide depression prevention program delivered in Grade 7
- onMATH : an internet program provides math support in and after school until 5.00p.m. (higher grades)
- note also that the Public Library offers homework support on-line
- Summer camp programs in the schools emphasize literacy skills
- Anti-bullying programs including peer mediation; tribes;

Learning Difficulties

To access these programs, please talk to the Principal of your child's school

- Summer skill program in the summer holidays to maintain literacy skills, and prepare for high school
- In-schools and system school resource meetings : multi-disciplinary consultations to discuss student progress and problem solve
- Itinerant teams for ASD, Augmentative Communication, LD, Behaviour
- Itinerant teachers for Hard of Hearing and Blind students
- Six week intensive program for some grade 6 LD students
- Students may be placed on an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) and linked to the school's Learning Resource Teacher (LRT)
- If the students are identified as special education students through the Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) process then there are a variety of supports such as
 - special education classes;
 - support teams for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) ;
 - itinerant hard of hearing and blind teachers;
 - and educational assistants.

More about programs for identified students can be found on the Board's web site: www.hwdsb.on.ca

Social and Emotional support

- System school resource meetings : multi-disciplinary consultations to discuss student issues, including behaviour and mental health
- Settlement Workers in Schools (SWISH) work with families and students who are new to Canada
- Behaviour Pathway Program level 1:
 - Five system itinerant behaviour teams each consisting of a teacher and 2 EAs support classroom teachers
- Behaviour Pathway program level 2 :
 - Five system programs each staffed with a teacher and an EA to address behavioural needs of students who need more support than in level 1
- Behaviour Pathway Program level 3: Three self-contained classes for students with intense behavioural needs.
- Restorative Justice programs available in some elementary schools
- EA mentoring program : project to support students in targeted high needs elementary schools to address social-emotional issues

Alternative Programs

To access these programs, please talk to the Principal of your child's school

- Adelaide Hoodless and Crestwood alternative programs and an outdoor program at Canterbury Hills.
- The School Alternative Educational Program (SALEP) has educational assistants, a social worker and two teachers who provide academic work and use some community resources as well as work experience to re-engage students in school who have not been attending.
- Students who have been suspended for 8 to 20 days or who are expelled may attend the Gateway program in two locations supported by HWDSB's partner the John Howard Society.
- Section 23 programs are run in community agencies with teachers from HWDSB (includes hospitals, mental health and secure facilities) . Access to these programs is through Contact Hamilton.