What’s the Role of the In-School Support Team (IST)?

The role of the In-School Support Team (IST) is to provide internal support to students with special needs by developing, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating plans of action and appropriate strategies designed to help students.

The IST uses different educational assessment strategies such as direct observation, journals, tests, projects and student self-assessment to better understand the student’s strengths, needs and instructional levels.

Parental and Student Involvement in IST/SST Processes

Parents/guardians and students (who are 16 and older) are valued partners and are encouraged to participate in the IST/SST process.

While parental permission; and/or, attendance at the IST meeting are not mandatory, parents/guardians should be informed about the student’s needs and plan of action recommended at the meeting.

When a member of professional support services attends the meeting and the student is identified by name, grade or classroom, parental permission is required. To facilitate participation, the principal can ask for an interpreter to attend the meeting.

Once a student reaches the age of 16 years of age, he/she must be consulted. Students over 18 years of age must give permission for their personal information to be shared with their parents.
What’s the role of the School Support Team (SST)?

The School Support Team (SST) helps determine education goals and implementation strategies that are based on the student’s unique learning profile.

This team offers additional knowledge and expertise by including representatives from special education, psychology, social work, attendance counselling, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, parent(s)/guardian(s), caregivers, students over 16 years of age and outside agencies as required.

Referral to an IST

Students are referred to the IST when regular classroom instruction has been unsuccessful in meeting the student’s needs.

In order to better understand the student’s development (e.g. physical, social, emotional, language and intellectual), the teacher assesses the student in different learning situations. The student’s growth and learning are recorded in the Individual Learning Profile (ILP) and presented at the IST meeting.

The IST meets regularly to evaluate the student’s progress. When the IST’s recommended strategies have limited success, the IST can refer the student to the School Support Team (SST).

IST Team

**Elementary schools:**
- School-based administrator
- Special education teacher, often a method and resource teacher (MART) or resource teacher

**Secondary schools:**
- Special education curriculum leader (CL) or assistant curriculum leader (ACL)