



Definitions

Barrier. Anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice.

Barrier free. A condition in which barriers are removed and new barriers are prevented from being erected.

Community agency. An agency that may be not-for-profit or funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services or the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The mandate of such an agency includes the provision of services or support for preschool children with special needs (e.g., Preschool Speech-Language Program, Infant Hearing, Preschool Intervention Program for Children with Autism).

Coterminous boards. Publicly funded District School Boards and Catholic District School Boards in the same geographic area.

Effective practice. A school or classroom practice that helps children to adjust quickly to school, enjoy learning, and develop a positive attitude to education.

Entry-to-school eligibility. Children usually enter school between the ages of three years eight months, and six years, depending on the entry level (Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten, or Grade 1).

Entry-to-school plan. A plan prepared collaboratively by school board and school staff, parents, and preschool service providers. An entry-to-school plan is recommended for all children with special needs who have received preschool services from community service providers. The purpose of the plan is to help the child make a smooth entry to school.

Protocol. An agreement between school boards and community agencies that outlines the processes, responsibilities, and timelines for the development of entry-to-school plans for children with special needs.

Readiness to learn. Age-appropriate development in physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language, general knowledge, and cognitive skills.

Special education consultant/coordinator. A teacher designated by the school board to provide leadership in the planning and delivery of special education programs and services either across the board or in specific areas of the board.

Special education resource teacher. A special education teacher assigned to a school to provide support to students with special education needs and their teachers.

