

OUTREACH EDUCATION

Background

HPSD believes in offering flexible outreach education programming through its Outreach Programs as an alternative for junior and senior high school students who, due to individual circumstances, find that traditional school settings do not meet their needs.

Procedures

1. Each Outreach program:
 - 1.1. has a unique Alberta Education school number;
 - 1.2. if in a standalone building, meets Alberta building, health and safety standards for schools; and
 - 1.3. utilizes only Alberta Education authorized curricular programs of studies.
2. Outreach Programs are funded to serve the needs of students:
 - 2.1. aged 12-19 years who are enrolled in grades 7-12; and
 - 2.2. who have difficulty with regular education programs such as at-risk students, teenage parents, students with unique medical or health challenges, working students and others with unique needs or learning styles.
3. When determining eligibility, the best interests of the individual student will be the deciding factor. HPSP believes the best educational setting for junior high level students is in the regular school setting, knowing that there will be exceptions to this.
Student acceptance will follow:
 - 3.1. consultation with the student, parent/guardian and principal to determine that the Outreach is the appropriate placement for the student;
 - 3.2. written consent from the student's legal guardian, and for junior high level students,
 - 3.3. consent from the Superintendent.
4. The primary purpose of an Outreach program is to assist students to complete high school. Once accepted into the program, students will have a responsibility to work toward that goal.
5. Given space and resources at the Outreach, students may be able to blend their programming with a HPSP high school.
6. The Education Act requires student to:
 - 6.1.1.attend school regularly and punctually (or as per the student's individual program plan);
 - 6.1.2.be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education;
 - 6.1.3.ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;
 - 6.1.4.respect the rights of others;
 - 6.1.5.refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
 - 6.1.6.comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board;
 - 6.1.7.co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services, be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct; and
 - 6.1.8.positively contribute to the student's school and community.
 - 6.2. In addition, Outreach students:
 - 6.2.1.set learning goals to guide their studies;
 - 6.2.2.work on and complete courses at an agreed-upon schedule;
 - 6.2.3.meet the attendance requirements of the program;
 - 6.2.4.are to learn to be self-motivated; and
 - 6.2.5.Exhibit appropriate behavior.

7. Outreach program students will;
 - 7.1. have access to a certified teacher for the number of hours indicated in the *Guide to Education*;
 - 7.2. be provided the equivalent of 25 hours of access to a certified teacher for each credit offered; and
 - 7.3. through the school or community agencies, have access to educational supports and services that are in addition to the Programs of Study such as:
 - 7.3.1. personal counselling,
 - 7.3.2. career counselling,
 - 7.3.3. conflict resolution and anger management techniques,
 - 7.3.4. time management and study skills,
 - 7.3.5. parenting skills,
 - 7.3.6. learning strategies, and
 - 7.3.7. addiction counselling.
8. Students may blend their programming with the Outreach while maintaining enrollment at a HPSD high school.
9. Students, in consultation with professional staff, will have the primary responsibility to develop and implement their individual programs.
10. The school leadership will be provided by a designated school principal, who may simultaneously share the principalship of another school.
11. Hours of operation of the Outreach program may be adjusted with the Superintendent's authorization to accommodate students' educational needs.

References

Education Act, Sections 3, 11, 19, 31, 32, 33, 53

Outreach Programs Handbook 2009, Government of Alberta Education