

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Respectful Inclusive Supported Education (RISE) (Formerly Individualized Supports Program ISP)

District Philosophy:

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools (GSACRD) is a welcoming learning community that awakens the hearts and minds of students while educating and nurturing each to learn, live fully and serve others. Students in GSACRD are provided with universal, targeted and individualized academic and behavioural supports in community schools and classrooms. The Respectful Inclusive Supported Education or RISE program option is a specialized program designed for junior and senior high school students who require targeted and/or individualized supports to meet their personalized educational goals. The identified learning needs of the students may be addressed in the school, classrooms, a single congregated classroom, and/or the community.

Program Description:

The RISE program is designed for students requiring targeted and modified* educational programming. Students participating in modified programs are working towards achieving personalized learning outcomes that are significantly different from the provincial curriculum (Standards for Special Education, 2004). Students enrolled in RISE have physical, cognitive and/or diagnosed learning challenges that interfere with the ability to acquire age-appropriate academic, communication and/or social skills. The students present with significant delays in academic achievement as well as moderate to severe delays in skills of daily living. Placement in RISE does not result in a High School Diploma however; students will participate in school-based events and activities, including graduation, and will receive a Certificate of Completion from Alberta Education.

Individualized Program Plans (IPPs) are developed, in consultation with parents/guardians and members of the school learning team, to select student-centered goals. Students registered in this program have access to a designated teacher who is responsible for structuring an academic plan that includes individual and small group instruction as well as inclusive educational experiences for each student. Planning includes modified academic programming, behaviour support plans, social communication development, use of selected technology, and opportunities to address and meet unique health and physical needs. A strong focus is placed on developing skills for participating in current school environments as well as abilities necessary for social, recreational and work opportunities in the future.

RISE programs are currently offered in one junior high school and two high schools. They are under the supervision of Principals and the Associate Superintendent of Student Services. Individual student programs are collaboratively planned, adjusted and monitored by the members of the school learning team: Principal, RISE Teacher, Assistant Principal, Counsellor and Learning Support Facilitator. As well, district and private consultants and therapists are available to these programs.

Student Profile and Documentation Requirements for participation in the RISE program:

- The student has a significant discrepancy from age-level academic achievement and is addressing personalized learning goals that are aligned with Alberta Education's definition of modified programming
- Alberta Education coding (40 code)
- Parent request and informed consent
- School Learning Team recommendation
- Relevant prior assessments
- Student requires individual and/or specialized supports to meet daily educational and/or personal health and safety needs

Program Components and Outcomes:

Although programs are individualized for each student, daily learning experiences will typically focus developing skills in the following areas:

- Communication
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Faith, Health, Personal Wellness and Relationships
- Social Participation and Interpersonal Skills
- Work awareness, experience and study

Transition Process:

Additional transition planning is required for students with complex educational needs as they move from elementary to junior high, from junior high to high school, and out of high school into adult education or community-based experiences. The goal of transition plans is to support students as they make necessary changes through regular, predictable cycles of education. While parents are the key decision makers, school staff in RISE programs work in partnership with students and families during major transitions. Typical considerations may include:

- The sharing of information with future staff and caregivers
- The development of specific goals for upcoming transitions
- Continuity of successful strategies and ongoing skill acquisition
- Support for students and families with the preparation of necessary documentation for future schools or community opportunities including post-secondary educational experiences
- Information sharing and opportunities for parents and students to explore options
- Community and vocational experiences to address instructional objectives specific to individual student needs
- Opportunities for students to learn to achieve self-determination (self-advocate, express preferences and concerns, problem solve and articulate their own interests and needs for support).

Application and Contacts:

School Learning Teams and Parents seeking placement for a student in the RISE program are invited to call:

Colleen McClure / Barb Brochu
Associate Superintendent Student Services
Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools
6 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 1K2
Phone: (780) 459-7711 Ext. 120
E-mail: cmcclure@gsacrd.ab.ca

For additional information about the program or to make arrangements for school visits, please contact:

Vincent J. Maloney Catholic Junior High School

Charlotte Kirchner (ckirchner@gsacrd.ab.ca) or
Billie-Jo Grant (bgrant@gsacrd.ab.ca)
20 Mont Claire Place
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1K9
Phone: (780) 458-1113
(Grades 7 – 9)

St. Albert Catholic High School

Deborah Wood (dwood@gsacrd.ab.ca) or
TBA (___@gsacrd.ab.ca)
33 Malmo Drive
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1L5
Phone: (780) 459-1244
(Grades 10 – 12)

Morinville Community High School

Sandee Blackburn (sblackburn@gsacrd.ab.ca),
Susanna Christensen (schristensen@gsacrd.ab.ca) or
Nicole Baker (nbaker@gsacrd.ab.ca)
9506, 100 Avenue
Morinville, Alberta T8R 1P6
Phone: (780) 939-6891
(Grades 9 – 12)

*Modified: As per the Standard for Special Education 2004. Modified programming means programming in which the learning outcomes are significantly different from the provincial curriculum and are specifically selected to meet students' special education needs.

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