

What is a Psycho-educational Assessment?

A psycho-educational assessment is the systematic investigation of a student's strengths and weaknesses in various domains (e.g., cognitive ability, achievement, information processing, language and behaviour).

The Assessment Process

- ✓ The goal of assessment is to gather specific and new information to better understand and improve the student's current functioning or learning.
- ✓ Assessment is accomplished through the use of interviews, rating scales, observations, standardized assessment tools, curriculum based measurement, history taking and measurement of responsiveness to intervention.
- ✓ The assessment process may require the District school psychologist to work, for a period of time, with the referred student in a one to one situation outside the regular classroom, but within regular school hours.
- ✓ At the end of the assessment process, a written report is shared with the parent or guardian and with school personnel concerned about the student. Parents and guardians are given an opportunity to ask questions and to make suggestions about the report at that time. The report becomes part of the student's confidential file record.

Benefits of Assessment

Generally, assessment seeks to answer questions about a student's learning or behaviour. It may help:

- ✓ develop insights into needed changes as well as develop new strategies, accommodations and adaptations that may be necessary to improve the student's learning.
- ✓ school personnel to gain a better understanding of a student's learning strengths and challenges.
- ✓ School Based Team members to develop education interventions and programs to improve the level of success that a student will have in school.
- ✓ lead in part, to a student's meeting the assessment component of the education code criteria assisting school personnel in the process to access additional services that might benefit the student.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: "I have a child who has learning problems. I want to know what his difficulties are and see that his needs are met at school. I would like him assessed by the District school psychologist. What do I have to do?"

A: You need to approach your child's teacher with your concerns. A referral from the School Based Team and your informed consent is required. The psycho-educational assessment is part of a larger process of identification, planning and intervention.

Q: "Can parents make a referral? Can doctors or other health providers make a referral?"

A: Not directly. They need to contact the school, then the request goes through the School Based Team. A psycho-educational assessment requires parent's or guardian's permission.

Q: "What is the purpose of the psycho-educational assessment?"

A: The purpose is to answer the referral question(s). The District school psychologist hopes to be able to provide further insight into the child's learning difficulties to complement information already known about the child. It is hoped that the information reported by the school psychologist will be of benefit to parents and teachers in the educational planning and programming process.

Q: "What is the District School Psychologist's responsibility in the development of programs for special needs students?"

A: The District school psychologist's responsibility is to provide assessment data and general programming recommendations (e.g. accommodations such as adaptations or modification to prescribed learning outcomes) to the school staff and to the parents. More specific recommendations pertaining to the student's learning difficulties may also be made. The child's teachers at the school and others responsible for programming develop the Individual Education Plan (IEP) through the IEP Planning Team meeting consultation process.

District School Psychologist Services

School District psycho-educational services assist in the assessment of individual student learning needs. The District school psychologist works in conjunction with other specialists in the District to provide a comprehensive picture of a student's strengths and difficulties.

The School Psychologist:

- ✓ provides psycho-educational assessments of students referred with learning problems.
- ✓ evaluates and interprets a wide range of student information to provide a better understanding of specific learning needs.
- ✓ reports assessment results to teachers and parents and provides consultation as needed.
- ✓ provides general programming recommendations and follow-up service to school staff.

Contact Information

*For more information,
contact your child's school*



*For further information please
contact:*

Director of Learning

Learning Support Services

School District 10

(Arrow Lakes)

98 6th Avenue NW

Nakusp, BC

V0G 1R0

Office: 250-265-3638

Ext. 250-3320

lorna.newman@sd10.bc.ca

LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT SERVICES



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