

Engaging in collaborative partnerships with community service providers



In order to build a truly inclusive learning environment, schools need to work with other community partners to provide a planning process that involves the student and family.



Having students and their families actively involved will result in more comprehensive, coordinated and integrated supports and services. Coordinated and integrated supports and services, offered through multiple professionals and agencies that are school based and/or school linked, might include health and mental health related services, mentoring, before/after school programs, and other supports and services for parents and families.

A collaborative approach will make it more possible to provide needed services and opportunities for students. Knowing what services are available within the community and collaborating with service providers can ensure students and their families have a network of professionals working together to meet their needs.

Building Awareness

An important first step for school leaders is to build an awareness of the supports and services that are available within your school community. These can include both internal (within the school jurisdiction) and external supports (such as health care professionals, social service agencies, etc.). Every school community context is different, so each school needs to know what services are available to them and who to contact when a need arises. Parents should also be made aware of what supports and services are available for their child and actively participate in the decision making around what supports and services will best meet their child's needs.

Collaboration and Coordination

Knowing what community supports and services are available is an important first step. Once these supports are identified, the school leader needs to ensure that all stakeholders work collaboratively to provide support for each student. No individual person or agency is responsible for student success rather all service providers and stakeholders work together to effectively meet the needs of each student. Working as a team ensures every student's physical, cognitive, social, and behavioural needs are effectively supported.

