



**Education (E-7)**  
**PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6**

January 21, 2021

Dear parents/guardians

**Re: Supporting students with diverse learning needs**

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I am writing to you because your child is on a learning plan that outlines additional supports they need to be successful at school. Some questions have been raised in media recently about Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and I want to ensure parents/guardians have accurate information about how their child is being supported. Some of the information being reported is concerning because it is not accurate.

**No changes have been made** to the supports that students can receive to ensure they are successful at school. Further, **no directive has been issued** to remove students from their IEP if they are already on one. As part of our ongoing work to ensure students are properly supported at school, we work with school staff to make sure they are working with families to confirm their child is on a plan that best outlines the supports they need to reach their maximum potential. In some cases, this has meant that school staff have worked with families to shift a student to a Student Learning Plan or Behavioural Support Plan instead of an IEP if the student requires minor adaptations to fully meet the curriculum. However, no change can be made without agreement from parents/guardians. This is in no way about reducing the supports for students, it is about providing every student with the tools and services they need to be successful in school, whatever that success looks like for them.

IEPs are typically assigned to students who are determined to have significant special needs that do not allow them to complete the regular school curriculum. However, every student is unique and the way supports are determined and outlined in their plans are unique. Some students on an IEP may still be able to complete the regular school curriculum and remain on the path to graduation. Student Learning Plans and Behavioural Support Plans were introduced in 2011 and 2012 as ways to clearly outline to students, parents/guardians, and school staff that the student is fully capable of meeting the curricular requirements when additional supports are in place.

**All learning plans are designed to provide the supports individual student needs to be successful in school.** These plans are our commitment of support to students and families. We have an

obligation to provide the supports that are identified, report to families on their child's learning progress and notify families if there is any change to their child's plan.

We recognize there is always room to improve how students are supported, which is why we are currently reviewing inclusive and special education programming. We encourage you to learn more about this review and share your experience with us at: [yukon.ca/en/engagements/review-inclusive-and-special-education-yukon](https://yukon.ca/en/engagements/review-inclusive-and-special-education-yukon).

I encourage you to contact your school with any questions about your child's learning plan. You can also contact Karen Campbell, Director of Student Support Services at [karen.campbell@yukon.ca](mailto:karen.campbell@yukon.ca) or 867-667-8000 for any questions about the different plans and supports available to your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sikkes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Sikkes  
ADM of Schools and Student Services