

Medicine Hat Catholic
Separate Regional Division #20

STUDENT SERVICES

Program Description



TURNING POINTS

Program Description

The Turning Points Program, located at St. Louis School, is designed to meet the needs of students in grades one to eleven, with severe emotional/behavioural disorders, who are not being successful in the mainstream classroom. The program is based on the theories and foundations of Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy, Cognitive-Behaviour Therapy and Control Theory/Reality Therapy. The aim of the program is to assist in fulfilling the potential of the students and to create growth within the academic, physical, social emotional, cognitive, behavioural, creative, physical and spiritual areas of development. Therapeutic and academic programming is provided based on pre and post assessments.

There are three classrooms in Turning Points, with seven students in each classroom. The staff includes one Special Education teacher, one Behavioural Coordinator and five FTE Behavioural Associates.

Individual Education Plans are developed for each student's behavioural and academic needs. Interventions are interdependent and work collaboratively with families and community resources within a Catholic Christian environment.

Eligibility Criteria and Referral Process

When school staff has tried many interventions for a student that has qualified for a severe disability code and still is unable to function within the school environment with supports, the student may be referred to the Turning Points Program. School Administration would provide the Director of Special Education with a summary of the anecdotal records. At this point, a Recency, Intensity and Frequency (RIF) checklist may be provided to the school for staff involved with the student to fill out. Upon compiling the data, a meeting with the Turning Points Coordinator, Director of Special Education and School Administration and Teacher will be set up to review the findings and plan future programming. (Refer to *Protocol For Students Demonstrating Severe Emotional/Behavior Difficulties* – next page).



When the student leaves the Turning Points Program for any reason, an Exit from Special Education Program form is completed, signed by parents and placed in the student's cumulative file.

"We must instil in a new generation the true heart of spirituality, which does not just seek quick answers, but asks greater questions. . . . Since Christ came to bring us joy, and joy in fullness, let there be a new heart in us all which does not merely want to know what the destination of the Kingdom looks like, but is mesmerized by every step of the journey which brings us to its gates."¹

¹ Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association, *Build Bethlehem Everywhere/A Statement on Catholic Education*. (Ontario, 2002), p. 30.

