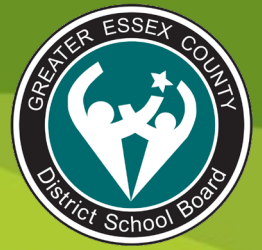


Parent Guide to GAINS

Giving Attention to Individual Needs



The GAINS Program is designed to:

- Individualize programming which is uniquely suited to each student's strengths and needs
- Assist students with developing functional language and numeracy skills
- Provide a safe, caring and supportive learning environment for students
- Assist students to develop daily living, social skills and independence
- Provide opportunities for integration within the school
- Help students achieve their full potential

Mission Statement

The **Greater Essex County District School Board** in partnership with the community, provides learning opportunities which support, challenge and inspire all students to achieve their full potential and enable them to participate meaningfully in their communities.

Program Purpose

The **GAINS Program** consists of classroom opportunities, supports and experiences designed to meet the needs of students with complex learning and physical challenges in Elementary school. The program is designed to allow students the opportunities to proceed at a rate of learning that is appropriate to their abilities, needs and interests. Students are supported by a team of special education specialists in classrooms with a reduced number of students.

Who is eligible for the GAINS program?

Exceptional students identified as having a Developmental Disability, Autism or Multiple Exceptionality through the Identification, Placement and Review Committee process (I.P.R.C.) and who meet other criteria as specified by the Greater Essex County District School Board.

publicboard.ca/specialeducation

Pathway

Students in the GAINS program work on Individual Education Plan (IEP) expectations in the following areas:

- Literacy and Numeracy
- Social/Emotional Development
- Communication/Language
- Development
- Self-Help Development
- Physical Development

Students in GAINS programs most often attend a STEPS program for high school with continued focus on the above areas. The STEPS program is designed to support transition planning for life in the community after high school is completed.

What is Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)

ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) can be easier to understand when you see it in action. ABA uses many different tools, or strategies, to teach students new skills and help reduce problem behaviour that might get in the way of their learning. These policies are consistent with Policy/Program Memorandum 140 (PPM 140).

ABA can be used to:

- Teach students to stay on task
- Improve social skills (relating to others)
- Learn functional literacy and numeracy skills
- Reinforce skills they have already learned
- Use what they have learned in different places (school, home, community)
- Decrease behaviours that get in the way of learning
- Develop independence and generalization of skills

