



# Parent Guide to STEPS

## Skills To Enhance Personal Success

### The STEPS Program is designed to:

- Explore work opportunities and community-based experiences where possible
- support transition planning for life in the community after high school is completed
- 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 and social skills
- provide opportunities for integration within the school
- help students achieve their full potential
- students will achieve a Certificate of Accomplishment upon completion of the STEPS program

### 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 STEPS Program consists of courses, supports, and experiences designed to meet the needs of students with complex learning and physical challenges in a variety of Secondary School environments. The program is designed to allow students the opportunity to proceed at a rate of learning that is appropriate to their ability, 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 STEPS 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.

## Pathways/ Transitions

Students in the STEPS Programs will be working towards achieving a Certificate of Accomplishment at the end of their secondary school career. Collaboration and consultation with agencies and associations is highly regarded as pivotal in community transition planning. While the school can assist in providing information about transition planning, it is ultimately the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make these connections to community agencies and associations, as well as to social groups.

## Applied Behaviour Analysis: What is 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 (schools, home, community)
- Decrease problem behaviour that gets in the way of learning