

PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE TEACHERS SUPPORTED BY TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Statement of Principle:

The best possible education for students shall be the primary consideration in the deployment of a teacher assistant.

Statement of Belief:

The quality of education a teacher provides to students can be enhanced through the supportive services of a teacher assistant.

Guidelines:

1. The teacher at all times remains responsible for the instruction of students and fostering of students' learning.
2. The teacher is responsible for the diagnosis of educational needs, the design of appropriate instruction and programs, the evaluation of students' progress, and the communication and reporting of students' progress to students, parents and the board.
3. The teacher may use the services of teacher assistants in assisting the teacher to fulfill his or her responsibilities. For example, a teacher may assign a teacher assistant to prepare classroom materials or to provide students with assistance in the application of concepts included in the relevant program(s) of studies.
4. The teacher is responsible for the direction and supervision of teacher assistants.
5. The teacher must ensure that teacher assistants carry out their role and responsibilities in a manner consistent with approved programs of study and the maintenance of students' safety and well being.

Definitions:

- i) "teacher assistant" means any person employed to help a teacher in achieving the learning outcomes of the Alberta program of studies and approved educational objectives;
- ii) "teacher" means an individual who holds a certificate of qualification as a teacher and who is employed to teach by a school board, an accredited private school, or by an ECS operator; and
- iii) "supervision" means the ongoing process of directing the activities and monitoring the implementation of a pre-determined course of action with specific outcomes.