



PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B3

November 25, 2010

Dear Ms. Reich:

Thank you for your email of November 9, 2010, regarding your concern about students with intensive needs not being included in the total enrollment of schools.

Previously, students with intensive needs were separated and broken out of the enrollment numbers for a school. Currently, however, students requiring intensive supports are counted as part of a school's core enrollment. Students are counted per grade and included in the school's aggregate core enrollment.

Students requiring intensive supports are identified on the Student Data System and then personal program plans are developed for each student. Parents are involved in the development and implementation of personal program plans, including the identification of services and supports.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Elaine Caswell, Executive Director of Student Support Services in the Ministry of Education, at (306) 787-6052 or you may email Elaine at elaine.caswell@gov.sk.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Brad Wall
Premier

cc Honourable Donna Harpauer
Minister of Education

Elaine Caswell
Executive Director of Student Support Services
Ministry of Education



Dear Premier Wall,

My name is Dawn Reich. I attended a public consultation last night at Athabasca School. It was more than apparent that parents and community members were upset by the fact that students attending both the Sr. and Jr. FIAP Programs were not included in the 'total enrolment of the school'. Athabasca is a kind and caring community that clearly recognizes the students in these programs as members of their school. They have a diverse culture within their student population that embraces the philosophy of inclusion. Is this not what inclusion is all about?

A question was asked as to whether or not special education students were included in the enrolment when making requests for capital projects such as a new school and the answer came back "The Ministry accepts only core enrolment for such requests".

Are students requiring support services not part of the core enrolment - or are they outside of that circle as well?

I just took in a three-day conference pertaining to inclusive education and found last night's answer most disturbing. Can you please explain to me why students with disabilities are NOT included as part of the 'total enrolment of the school'? This conference was put on by inclusiveducation.ca in partnership with the University of Regina. Participants and speakers for the conference came from across Canada.

The Ministry and Regina Public had speakers there as well. They spoke as though they believed in inclusion and described what they were doing to move inclusion along. If I may make a suggestion, at the very least, recognize special needs students in the 'total enrolment of the school'.

Perhaps if the organizers had been aware that special needs students in this province are not even recognized as part of the total enrolment of the school - they may have had misgivings about including the speakers they did.

Respectfully,

Dawn Reich