

FSL FAQs

POPARD Family - School Liaison Newsletter



FAQ: WHAT “PROFESSIONAL” SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE IN SCHOOLS?

There are many professionals who support students in a school system. Teaching is a “profession,” and we expect all staff employed in a school district to be “professional.”

Bachelor’s degrees are required for almost all teaching staff in British Columbia, and many teachers also acquire Master’s degrees in an area of curriculum or education service.

Teachers are certified by the Teacher Certification Board.

For assessment, identification, and programming for students with special needs,

the Ministry of Education requires credentials that exceed those that are required for classroom teachers (Section D of Special Education Services – Manual of Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines):

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/inclusive/special_ed_policy_manual.pdf

A number of these professionals are listed in the chart below. Some are regulated by a “college,” which has authority under the Health Act to protect the public, as well as to advance good practice in that profession.

Professional Support Personnel	Minimum Training	College Regulated/ Society Certified	Major Service Areas
Learning Assistance Teacher	BEd/BA	---	Consultation/planning/ instruction/ assessment of achievement
Speech-Language Pathologist	MA	Regulated	Assessment/treatment of communication impairments
Licensed School Psychologist ¹	MEd/MA	Regulated	Psychoeducational assessment/ consultation
Registered Psychologist ²	MA/PhD/EdD/ PsyD or Equivalent	Regulated	Psychological assessment/ consultation/intervention
Board Certified Behaviour Analyst ³	MA	Certified	Behaviour programming/ behaviour therapy
Occupational/Physio-Therapist	MA	Regulated	Physical/occupational therapy
School Counsellor ⁴	MA	---	Counselling/consultation/ co-ordination/education.

¹ Licensed School Psychologists may diagnose intellectual developmental disorder and specific learning disorder, but not other disorders.

² Registered Psychologists may diagnose disorders in addition to, or other than, those that may be diagnosed by Licensed School Psychologists.

³ This profession is not listed in the Manual of Policies.

⁴ School Counsellors might be members of a society of “registered clinical counselors.”

A number of these professionals are listed in the chart below. Some are regulated by a “college,” which has authority under the Health Act to protect the public, as well as to advance good practice in that profession. Regulated professionals complete graduate coursework, supervised practical training, and have passed one or more examinations of knowledge and practice in their field; they must maintain professional skills, adhere to a legally enforceable Code of Conduct, and must re-register annually. Other professionals might be certified or “registered” by a “society.” Societies may require specialized training and have expectations of conduct; however, enhancement of their respective professions is typically their goal, rather than protection of the public.

Larger educational organizations have more support staff and a greater variety of professional support services than do smaller organizations. For example, the largest school district in the lower mainland includes certified or registered school psychologists, school-based counsellors, district resource counsellors, helping teachers, school-based inclusive education teachers, education assistants, ABA Support Workers, child/youth care workers, and others, such as English language support teachers. Smaller educational organizations may contract professionals to come into their schools and provide support.

Websites for both public districts and independent schools often list professional support services under “Inclusive Education or Learning,” “Student Support,” or “Special Education.”

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT POPARD’S FAMILY-SCHOOL LIAISON**

EMAIL: FSL@AUTISMOUTREACH.CA PHONE: 604-952-4994