

Information for School Personnel

WHAT ARE PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES?

Psychology staff can offer advice about learning, social, emotional or behavioural needs. This may involve direct contact with a student, and/or consultation with parent(s)/guardian(s) and teachers, and/or liaison with community agencies.

Assessment

For students who are struggling academically, information from the assessment will help us understand the reasons for the struggles. For students showing advanced progress, an assessment will highlight their educational needs. For students who are experiencing social/emotional or behavioural concerns, the assessment will help us better understand what the student is feeling, how these feelings are expressed, and what their emotional or social needs might be. A written report will be completed and recommendations offered to you and the school.

Consultation

Psychology staff consult with school personnel about such matters as:

- issues affecting a student's progress
- relevant resources in the community (medical or social service)
- classroom management

HOW ARE SERVICES ACCESSED?

Referrals are usually made through the school team. You are asked to complete the psychology referral package, which includes relevant background information about the student's development and achievement. The package is to be signed by the principal. Contact the psychology staff for more information.

PERMISSION

For students younger than 18 years of age, parent/guardian signed Consent for Service and Access to the OSR (with psychologist/psychometrist checked) is required for an assessment to proceed. Students aged 12 and older may consent to counselling services, and will be encouraged to allow you to be informed of this involvement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

The results of any assessment will be shared with appropriate members of the school team and parent(s)/guardian(s). A copy of the report is placed in the student's file (OSR) and in our Psychological Services file.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information will be held in strict confidence and will not be disclosed to a third party without your written consent. By law, we must disclose information if we are concerned about anyone's safety.

RELATED MATTERS

On an emergency basis, psychology staff may provide short-term counselling support to students in personal crisis. The Principal may consult psychology staff with such a request.

As consulting members if need be to the Board's Tragic Event Response Support Team (TERST), psychology staff help guide the process of coping with crises involving students and school staff. The Principal is to consult the appropriate Administrative Officer to determine the need to activate TERST.

Psychology staff routinely provide information and support to teachers, through workshops and written material, on such topics as brain injury, inattentiveness, Tourette's syndrome and behaviour management techniques.

PSYCHOLOGY STAFF

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