

# Alberta School for the Deaf

## Entrance Criteria Frequently Asked Questions

### **When did Alberta School for the Deaf join Edmonton Public Schools?**

Alberta School for the Deaf joined Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) as a result of a transfer agreement in 1995. The transfer of the entire program was signed off between the Minister of Education and the Superintendent of Edmonton Public Schools.

### **What is the history of Alberta School for the Deaf?**

Alberta School for the Deaf has an over 65 year history serving as a provincial residential school and now as a program of choice. In response to a request by the then Deputy Minister of Education, Alberta School for the Deaf became an alternative program in Edmonton Public Schools in 1995. The proposal was developed by the Friends of Alberta School for the Deaf and Alberta Education and was addressed in the form of a contract between Alberta Education and Edmonton Public Schools. When the residential program closed in 1992, partner organizations such as Connect Society, assumed responsibility for residential placement of students in homes in programs including the Stay and Study program.

### **“The Minister and the Board believe that deaf students should have access to an education environment that...” (1995 Master Transfer Agreement):**

- provides the highest quality of education available;
- is academically and culturally enriched;
- is a Bi-lingual/Bicultural (Bi-Bi) school using English and American Sign Language (A.S.L.);
- is the most enabling for them;
- provides the opportunity to learn in a setting designed for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students;
- fosters respect for others;
- provides Deaf role models in a community school; and
- challenges students to develop leadership skills and reach their optimal potential.

### **Entrance Criteria For School Aged Programming (EPSB Budget Services):**

#### **Hearing Disability (Mild/Moderate)**

This category is intended to support programming for students whose hearing is so limited that it interferes with the student's ability to learn, affects speech and language development and necessitates the purchase of specialized equipment and/or materials, adaptations to instructions, and/or modifications to assignments/environment.

#### **Requirements:**

- Results of a recent audiogram and;
- A current functional assessment report by an educational consultant for the deaf and hard of hearing that specifies the amount and type of personal assistance, specialized programming and/or equipment required by the student

## **Deafness (Severe)**

This category is intended to support programming for students whose hearing loss interferes with the use of oral language as the primary form of communication and necessitates substantial modification to the learning environment or is intended for deaf students who are receiving the services of a trained teacher or interpreter for the majority of the school day.

### **Requirements:**

- Results of a recent audiogram or the student has a cochlear implant and;
- A current functional assessment report by an education consultant for the deaf and hard of hearing that specifies the amount and type of personal assistance, specialized programming and/or equipment required by the student

## **Students Who May Benefit From This Program (EPSB Website):**

American Sign Language (ASL) program at Alberta School for the Deaf provides grades 1 – 12 students with opportunities to acquire or maintain proficiency in ASL and English and for those:

- whose primary disabling condition is Deafness or Hearing Disability (see criteria);
- who is cognitively able to develop communication, language and literacy skills in ASL and English, and can use both to receive instruction and demonstrate learning against the Alberta Education curriculum;
- whose first language may be ASL;
- who can understand the components of signing, including hand shapes, orientation, location and body movement of ASL as a language;
- who can learn the distinct grammatical differences that exist between English and ASL;
- who can develop fluency in more than one language;
- who can demonstrate competence in communicating and interacting in a variety of situations;
- who is able to communicate and understand non-verbal cues and behaviours;
- who is suitable for placement in one of the school's language program tracks including Bilingual/Bicultural or Total Communication.

## **Priority For Admission**

- Students must be Edmonton area residents or are accepted as a student of EPSB through a sponsorship agreement from an requesting school jurisdiction outside of Edmonton.
- Where the number of students eligible for the program exceeds the space available, the principal of the program will prioritize on the basis of eligibility, anticipated effectiveness of the programming, and alignment with District placement policy and processes.

## **How does Edmonton Public Schools Board Policy and Administration Regulation recognize programming at Alberta School for the Deaf?**

Edmonton Public Schools recognizes American Sign Language as a language and is supported through Edmonton Public School Administration Regulation and Board Policy as well as the Province of Alberta School Act.