

# Connections Program



The Connections Program is a specialized system program designed for students in grades 1-6 who've been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ASD can result in difficulties in communication, social relationships, behaviour, learning or any combination thereof. The program's designed for students who require flexible instruction that's responsive to fluctuations in levels of engagement or regulation throughout the school day in a classroom environment that takes into consideration individual sensory needs.

Instruction is guided by an Instructional Support Plan (ISP), builds on individual strengths and needs, and follows the Alberta Education Programs of Study, with adaptations, accommodations and modifications as necessary. The Connections Program is supported by Elk Island Public Schools' Specialized Supports multi-disciplinary team.

### Benefits for Students

- Improved communication skills
- Improved early literacy and numeracy skills
- Improved social skills
- Improved self-regulation skills

### Programming Priorities

- Smaller class sizes with instruction targeted to individual needs
- Flexible learning environment tailored to reduce extra-sensory stimulation along with opportunities for gross motor development
- Programming focus on communication, literacy and numeracy development
- Opportunities for students to integrate in certain subjects where individually appropriate

### Eligibility

Students must:

- be 6 to 12 years old as of December 31, in the year they'll enrol in the program;
- have a clinical diagnosis of a Autism Spectrum Disorder; and
- be a resident student of Elk Island Public Schools.

If you feel your child might be eligible, discuss your child's programming needs with your school team. They, along with the specialized supports consultant, can help determine if the Connections program might be a potential fit for your child.

### Locations

- Fort Saskatchewan Christian (grades 1-6)
- Pine Street Elementary (grades 1-6)
- Win Ferguson Elementary (grades 1-6)
- Woodbridge Farms Elementary (grades 1-6)

### Questions about this program?

**Current EIPS families:**  
Contact your school team

**New EIPS families:**  
Contact EIPS' Supports for Students team at 780-417-8219

Updated January 2024

### FAQs

