

CASP-I EDUCATION PROGRAM

A Competency-Based Approach to Social Participation

Information for Parents

A program to help your child achieve success according to their abilities

The CASP-I Education Program is for students aged 6 to 15 with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities. It is designed to progressively increase young people's social participation. The program helps prepare each student to be successfully integrated at school and in society and develop greater personal autonomy. In concrete terms, this means your child will be provided with stimulating opportunities to become involved in their learning, take up challenges tailored to their abilities, demonstrate their skills and participate actively in school life.

This document will provide you with a broad outline of the CASP-I Education Program, complete with examples of the types of learning your child will do as well as information on the role of evaluation in the program. It will help you understand the changes introduced by the CASP-I Education Program, so that you can collaborate with the school to help your child achieve success according to their abilities.

Broad outline of the CASP-I Education Program

The CASP-I Education Program is built around competencies to be developed, life areas to be explored with students, and diversified knowledge to be acquired.

Education focused on competency development

The CASP-I Education Program focuses on the development of five competencies that will serve your child throughout life. Students do activities and concrete projects that foster their social participation in order to develop the different competencies. The following table presents the five competencies, along with an explanation of each.

Competencies	Explanation of the competencies
Communicates	Your child will learn to understand spoken and written messages intended for them or for someone else, to express ideas and emotions, and to converse with others in a variety of situations.
Uses information	Your child will learn to consult sources of information, such as timetables or websites, and to determine the information that needs to be considered when taking action.
Interacts with others	Your child will learn to become involved in group life, to pay attention to other people, and to comply with school rules and social norms.
Acts methodically	Your child will learn to use the appropriate means and required materials to carry out a project or perform a specific task.
Acts in a safe manner	Your child will learn to adopt safe behaviours and to react appropriately in potentially dangerous situations.

Life areas that take young people's interests and needs into account

In order to be stimulating and make young people want to come to school and learn, schooling must take their interests and needs into account. The connections young people make between school and their personal life are often key to motivating them. The CASP-I Education Program focuses on five life areas that reflect social expectations regarding education:

- **School Life:** Socializing and actively engaging in learning
- **Personal Care and Well-Being :** Taking care of basic personal needs and maintaining good physical and mental health
- **Leisure:** Taking part in recreational and relaxation activities
- **Home and Community Life :** Participating in home and community life
- **Travel:** Safely getting around one's immediate environment and the community

The five life areas are explored at school through learning situations in which your child is able to apply knowledge and exercise competencies. The five selected life areas help enhance your child's participation in social activities and the community.

Acquisition of diversified knowledge

The school's role is to enable your child to acquire more knowledge, gradually exploring it in greater depth, in order to develop the five competencies of the CASP-I Education Program. This helps increase their autonomy and level of social participation.

The program content (knowledge, skills and strategies) is divided into seven subjects: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Information and Communications Technologies, Physical Education and Health, Arts Education and Life in Society.

The teacher selects program learning elements that will help your child develop competencies. Learning elements are chosen based on their personal needs and abilities.

EVALUATION AS A TOOL FOR FOLLOWING YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

The aim of evaluation in the CASP-I Education Program is to help your child learn. From this perspective, evaluation is one of a number of means used to contribute to their progress.

To help you follow your child's progress and provide the necessary support, the school uses various means to assess their progress and keep you informed. It will communicate with you in writing in a variety of ways, including the report card, which is sent out three times a year. Your child's teacher will also use other means to keep you informed of their development.

Teachers evaluate the five competencies of the CASP-I Education Program using the scales of competency levels. These are benchmarks that make it possible to follow your child's progress with regard to competency development. Further information can be found in the report card. The teacher makes a judgment regarding your child's competency level and the degree of support provided to them by an adult. The competency level is determined solely based on the teacher's observations regarding your child's learning; it does not involve any comparison with other children in the class. The degree of support your child receives from an adult varies depending on your child's needs. The adult stops providing support when your child is ready to exercise the competency without assistance. The teacher may talk to you about ways you can help your child make progress. The school determines which competencies will be evaluated each term, and will share this information with you at the beginning of each school year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, consult the CASP-I Education Program at www.education.gouv.qc.ca or contact the administration of your child's school.