

## Pathway 2 – Questions and Answers for Schools

### 1. What is the pre-referral process?

*The pre-referral stage involves a period of problem solving at the classroom level. The teacher is aware of an area of concern and is actively taking steps to ensure that the student is given every opportunity to be successful. Supporting the learning needs of the student is an ongoing problem solving process that is best accomplished by groups of teachers sharing ideas, experiences and resources.*

*During the pre-referral stage, the barriers to student achievement are identified and the strategies required to eliminate those barriers are implemented. The goal of the pre-referral stage is to adjust the instructional process to enable the student to be successful, yet appropriately challenged within the curriculum.*

*Pre-referral interventions are:*

*good teaching practices;*

*strategies to accommodate different learning styles; and,*

*the exploration and manipulation of factors that enable the student to experience success.*

*The importance of the pre-referral stage cannot be overstated. Decisions made at this stage will significantly impact a student's ability to be successful within the provincially prescribed curriculum. Once the student's strengths and needs have been identified, teaching becomes a process of making the curriculum as accessible as possible for that student.*

### 2. What is the process for decision making around the provision of Pathway 2 accommodations/adaptations?

*Pathway 2 accommodations/adaptations may be implemented for a student following the pre-referral process and other necessary assessments that identify the presence of an exceptionality.*

### 3. Is a formal assessment required prior to implementing Pathway 2?

*Yes. Formal assessment is necessary; however, exceptionalities may be identified by professionals other than education.*

### 4. Who is responsible for delivering Pathway 2 accommodations/adaptations?

*The responsibility lies with the classroom teacher, however, there are situations where support may be necessary from another teacher to provide a specific accommodation/adaptation, particularly during tests/exams (e.g. alternate space, scribing, and oral testing).*

### 5. How is the information regarding a student's Pathway 2 accommodations/adaptations to be shared among all teachers involved?

*This form is to be photocopied for distribution to all teachers involved. Parents/guardians should also have a copy.*

**6. When will this form be completed and what meetings will be required for students receiving only Pathway 2 accommodations/adaptations?**

*An initial meeting of the program planning team will be required at the beginning of each school year to complete the Pathway 2 form. Review meetings will take place during parent teacher interviews. During the spring parent- teacher interview it would be important to ensure that appropriate Pathway 2 accommodations/adaptations will be in place for the upcoming school year. The needs of some students may require that parents and teachers meet more frequently.*

**7. Who is responsible for completing the Pathway 2 form?**

*A principal should designate a person to complete the form.*

**8. Does this form need to be completed each year?**

*Yes.*

**9. Why does the student's exceptionality not appear on the Pathway 2 form?**

*Such information should be found only in the student's confidential file.*

**10. Would speech language or counselling supports be considered Pathway 2 accommodations?**

*No. These are services.*

**11. Does a student require an identified exceptionality to avail of extended time?**

*Any student is entitled to some extended time. For example, currently in a public exam setting, any student can access an additional thirty minutes. To consider extended time as a Pathway 2 accommodation/adaptation, a student must have an identified exceptionality, and require an amount of time beyond what would reasonably be afforded to any student.*

**12. Are personal FM systems considered to be a Pathway 2 accommodation?**

*Personal FM systems are considered to be a Pathway 2 accommodation/adaptation. However, sound field systems are not, as these are not for a particular child.*

**13. Will a university or college accept this form?**

*Currently, Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic use forms similar to the Pathway 2 form proposed for use in the K-12 system. This form would go to the post secondary institution along with other required documentation. Students with identified exceptionalities and documented needs can access programming accommodations/adaptations at a post- secondary institution.*