Successful Transition from Elementary to Post-Secondary (STEPS) Program

The Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC) at Queen’s University is currently conducting a 2-year project to assist students with learning disabilities and their families to make a successful transition from Grade 7 to secondary school and beyond.

In the past, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) has funded the STEPS program to collect research information about the nature of learning disabilities through adolescence. The Ministry is supportive of the program but is no longer able to fund a program for a cohort of students not in, or imminently transitioning to, post-secondary education. However, our experience over the last 10 years of the program has taught us that by providing students, their parents and teachers with a deeper understanding of the student’s learning profile and challenges, it increases the chances of students succeeding in secondary school and beyond.

As such, RARC is committed to continuing the program, providing a psychoeducational assessment as well as the parent and student intervention sessions and the summer camps. There will be no cost for the intervention sessions and the psychoeducational assessment will be provided with flexible payment options over a 2-year period. The most economical payment option available is $84 x 24 months.

To hear from former students and parents, follow this link: https://tinyurl.com/STEPStestimonials

“My husband and I have benefitted from the parent sessions and we have learned many new strategies to implement. Josh has realized and implemented many of the ideas he has learned. Not only has this improved the school day and school work, this has made a huge improvement to our home life.”

The STEPS program offers:

- INCREASED SELF-KNOWLEDGE & SELF-ESTEEM
- ADVOCACY SKILLS
- A SENSE OF BELONGING
- CLASSROOM & TECHNOLOGY SKILLS
- INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SYSTEM
- INCREASED SUCCESS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY
To be eligible, students must:

- Apply for the program during the fall of their Grade 7 year
- Be previously identified or diagnosed with a Learning Disability in reading and/or writing
- Have average intellectual functioning (25th percentile and above), based on previous assessment findings
- Students who meet the LDAO definition of a learning disability in reading and/or writing ([www.ldao.ca/introduction-to-ldsadhd/what-are-lds/official-definition-of-lds/](http://www.ldao.ca/introduction-to-ldsadhd/what-are-lds/official-definition-of-lds/))

Due to a limited number of spaces in the STEPS program, **not all students who meet eligibility requirements will be accepted into the program.** Priority will be given to:

- Students whose profiles are well-matched to benefit from this intervention program
- Students whose applications are received to RARC early (applications received September through December)

STEPS Information Night will take place on November 8th 6:30 pm – 8:00pm in Room B201, Mackintosh-Corry Hall, 99 University Avenue on Queen’s campus in Kingston. Google Maps: [https://goo.gl/maps/q99wL8CDYaB2](https://goo.gl/maps/q99wL8CDYaB2)

**Participation in all aspects of the program is required. Program components include:**

**In Grade 7:**

- An updated psychoeducational assessment (Fall 2018/Winter 2019)
- Sessions for students and parents focusing on: learning disabilities, self-esteem, self-advocacy and navigating IPRCs and IEPs at the school level (4 sessions, May 2019)
- A one-week adaptive technology camp for students (with option for parent participation) (July 2019)

**In Grade 8:**

- Sessions for students and parents on preparing for secondary school (Fall 2019)
- A one-week secondary school transition camp (August 2020)

*Transportation is not provided.*