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

STEPS is a two year program for students with issues affecting learning (including learning disabilities, ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder) and their families to assist with making a successful transition from Grade 7 to secondary school and beyond. STEPS is offered by The Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC) at Queen’s University.

In the past, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has funded the STEPS program to collect research information about the nature of learning disabilities in adolescence. The Ministry is supportive of the program but is no longer able to fund this program. However, our experience over the last 10 years of the program has taught us that providing students and their parents with a deeper understanding of the student’s learning profile 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 is 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

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

“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.”
To be eligible, students must:

- Apply for the program during the fall of their Grade 7 year
- Have impairments in academic achievement
- Be previously diagnosed with a relevant disability (e.g. a learning disability, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder), or have a history that strongly suggests a relevant disability
- Have average intellectual functioning, based on previous assessment findings

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 (September through December)

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

**In Grade 7:**

- An updated psychoeducational assessment (Fall 2019/Winter 2020)
- 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 2020)
- A one-week adaptive technology camp for students (with option for parent participation) (July 2020)

**In Grade 8:**

- Sessions for students and parents on preparing for secondary school (Fall 2020)
- A one-week secondary school transition camp (August 2021)

*Please note that transportation is not provided.*

**STEPS Information Night:** Thursday, November 7th 6:30 pm – 8:00pm
Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room D214, 68 University Avenue on Queen’s campus in Kingston.
Google Maps: https://goo.gl/maps/q99wL8CDYaB2

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For more information, please contact Sheila Merkley
613-533-6000 ext. 75220 | steps@queensu.ca | www.queensu.ca/rarc