

# A Look at Psychologist Support

## For parents and families

All students in the Prairie Valley School Division have access to age-appropriate psychological services provided by a registered psychologist determined by area of need. Psychologists' core work is to provide direct service to students in Kindergarten to Grade 12.

### **How does my child access support?**

All students accessing psychology supports require a referral, with the exception of a Violent Threat Risk Assessment. A referral can be initiated by either the parents/guardians or school staff.

To request a referral parents must talk with their child's classroom teacher or administration.

Parents will need to sign the referral, consenting for the school to talk about their child's needs with the Prairie Valley Learning Supports (PVLS) team. Your consent allows the team to discuss your child's needs further and make an intervention plan to meet those needs.

### **What happens once a referral is made?**

The psychology team member will consult with the school-based team and parents to determine the appropriate plan of action to address the reason for referral. The psychology team may do any of the following:

- Gather pertinent information through file reviews, and formal and informal interviews.
- Complete psycho-educational assessments within the cognitive, social, emotional and behavioural domains to support student's learning and to diagnose learning disorders and intellectual disabilities. Psycho-educational assessments provide parents and educators with thorough analysis of a child's need.
- Gather information to support referrals to mental health, Child and Youth Services, physicians and other agencies. Psychologists consult on and support the planning of interventions for student learning and behavioural needs.
- Provide crisis intervention, crisis response and risk assessments as needed.
- Collaborate with other members of the Learning Supports team.
- Provide drug modules to students and parents for substance abuse related suspensions.

The psychology team member may also support the student/and or school team by:

- Attending problem-solving meetings.
- Completing classroom observations.
- Completing achievement testing.
- Delivering presentations.
- Attending medical appointments.
- Supporting goals development for Inclusion and Intervention Plans and Diverse Needs Plans.
- Developing behaviour and safety plans and advising on positive behaviour intervention strategies.

## **How much consultation will I receive if the Psychology team is involved with my child?**

If your child is referred to a psychology team member, the psychologist will contact you, or a meeting will be arranged to discuss the reason for the referral. At this time, you will have a discussion about your concerns and what interventions and supports may be beneficial to your child. The psychologist will have contact with you throughout their working time with your child.