

Chinook's Edge Rehabilitation Services Team (ReST)



A change in provincial funding last spring prompted a restructuring to our school division's response to the rehabilitation services our students receive in Chinook's Edge schools.

Although the funding reduction resulted in certain challenging staffing decisions and an unexpected change to the structure of service delivery, Chinook's Edge was able to be innovative in moving forward successfully. The resulting Rehabilitation Services Team (ReST) is part of a re-visioning for how Chinook's Edge can most efficiently and effectively serve students.

Rather than the previous structure where multiple service providers were independently contracted to work with students, the Student Services Department added a series of Speech Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapist staff positions directly into the department. This reduced the hourly contractor rate dramatically, eliminated expensive mileage fees, and allowed us an opportunity to embed our Chinook's Edge initiatives and practices within our rehabilitation services.

Members of the ReST team are now present in Chinook's Edge schools each day, working with the division's youngest students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 2. As these young students transition from Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten into higher elementary grades, the funding to support these services does not stop as it did with the previous model of funding. For the students the ReST team serves, this represents ongoing support for their learning needs with benefits that will last a lifetime. For Chinook's Edge, it is another example of fiscal prowess and of a responsive staff who are ready to meet challenges and adapt to change.



Ready to serve: The Chinook's Edge Rehabilitation Services Team.