# Positive Behaviour Supports in Practice: Building Supportive Learning Communities

This is a systems-based strategy that uses a wide network of supports such as learning coaches, multi-disciplinary teams, and collaboration with RCSD models. Layers of support are needed when analyzing and understanding behaviours. Students should also be looked at in holistic ways and from different perspectives.

This learning guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and learning communities, or as a self-paced study to explore school-wide behavioural supports.

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This learning guide is intended to be used after viewing the video clip Building Supportive Learning Communities.

**Big idea:** At a system level, Edmonton Catholic Schools provides schools with multiple pathways and resources to support diverse learning needs. Anne Fitzgerald School uses all the resources provided in strategic ways to provide scaffolding to achieve student success and genuinely embraces all learners.

## Key understandings:

- School systems need to create layers of support and strategically design service models that address the needs of the whole child.
- All students have unique and individual backgrounds, educational needs, skill sets, personalities and strengths.
- Gathering information to develop a holistic view of students is essential for classroom staff to understand the students' individual needs; a holistic understanding is the foundation for effective programming.
- Multidisciplinary collaboration is the cornerstone of effective supports for specialized needs. Multidisciplinary teams commonly consist of family members, education professionals, health professionals, medical professionals and social-care professionals.
- It is critical to ensure that curriculum is accessible to all learners.

## Questions for discussion:

- What support resources do you already have available in your school?
- How can you access the information or supports needed?
- What layers of support are currently in place in your school?
- How can you enhance your layers of support?

## For more information:

- The Nemours Foundation, *Kids Health* website:
  - "Learning problems." Retrieved from http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/learning-disabilities.html?ref=search#catcommunication
  - "Occupational therapy." Retrieved from http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/occupational-therapy.html#catcommunication
  - "Physical Therapy." Retrieved from http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/phys-therapy.html?WT.ac=p-ra#catcommunication
  - "Speech-Language Therapy." http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/speech-therapy.html?WT.ac=p-ra#catcommunication
  Accessed August 31, 2016

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