

Who are the members of the Connections team?

The Connections team is multidisciplinary, and includes:

- parents
- school principal
- teacher
- TCDSB Connections for Students staff
- Surrey Place Centre Connections for Students staff
- other professionals, as determined on an individual basis



How can I get more information about Connections for Students?

For more information, contact:

Connections for Students

Support Service for Students with Autism
Toronto Catholic District School Board
416 222-8282 ext. 2685



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Connections for Students



Helping Students Make the Transition from the Autism Intervention Program (AIP) to School

Toronto Catholic District School Board
and
Surrey Place Centre



What is “Connections for Students”?

Connections for Students is a joint initiative of the Ontario Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services, intended to facilitate the transition of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders from Autism Intervention Programs (AIPs) to school. This initiative partners school boards and AIP providers.

The Connections initiative is meant to:

- make the transition from the Autism Intervention Program (AIP) to school as smooth as possible
- ensure that the school and teacher have the information they need about the student's skills and difficulties and about the teaching strategies that have helped him or her learn in the AIP
- make sure that the student maintains the gains that were made in the AIP
- support continued learning of new and useful skills



How is the Toronto Catholic District School Board involved in the Connections for Students initiative?

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is participating in this initiative, and is partnered with Surrey Place Centre, the lead agency in Toronto for the provision of AIPs.

How does Connections for Students work?

The AIP informs board staff of a child's discharge date from the AIP, approximately six months in advance of that date. A transition team is formed, which includes parents, school staff and TCDSB and Surrey Place Centre staff from the Connections team.

Before discharge from the AIP, and with parental consent, Connections for Students staff gather necessary information about the child's program, the teaching strategies which have been successful, and the resources which are needed as part of the program. This process will involve activities such as:

- visits to the child's AIP
- discussion with AIP staff
- gathering and review of assessments, service plans and progress reports
- visits to the child's school if he or she is already in school part-time
- meetings with parents
- meetings with school staff
- acquiring/preparing needed resources and materials

Connections for Students staff work with the school staff to ensure that they have the needed information, collaborate with the school in the planning of the child's program, and assist with program implementation as needed.

After discharge from the AIP, the Connections for Students staff continue to provide support to the school. The nature of this support is individualized to the particular child and school situation. This support continues for six months after discharge. Regular contact among parents, the school and the Connections team is part of that support. After the six month period, assistance continues to be available, at the request of the school, from the board's Support Service for Students with Autism.

