

Durham District School Board (DDSB) Inclusive Student Services Impact Update

2023-2024 • Volume 6

Education Community Partnership Program (ECPP) Grove School

What are Education Community Partnership Programs?

ECPPs are collaborative partnerships between school boards and government-approved facilities such as children mental health agencies, hospitals or youth detention centres. The DDSB provides the educational component ("Education Program") while a community partner provides the care and/or treatment or rehabilitation ("ECPP Services"). (MOE, 2023-24)

ECPPs are an important resource for providing critical support to meet the needs of children and youth who cannot attend school due to their primary need for care, treatment and/or rehabilitation services and in facilitating transitions to future educational success.

An ECPP is only for children and adolescents who cannot attend their regular school because of their primary need for care, treatment and/or rehabilitation services.

Current Program and Enrolment Information

The ECPP programs facilitated by the DDSB, in partnership, currently supports 205 (December 2023) children and adolescents between the ages of 7 and 21.

Program Impacts and Transitions

Transitions for children and youth accessing ECPP include pathways including return to home school, transition to services of another ECPP partners and/or SE class. Between September and December 2023), 9 students returned to their home school and 13 transitioned between ECPP programs/partners.

Supported by DDSB teachers through ECPP, secondary students completed 39 credits during the same time period.

"I can't stress the importance of Grove School. I am someone who needs lots of prompting to stay organized. Teachers only see my marks as average and thats all they look at. For me it is really hard to stay organized and I need a few accommodations and here I can get what I need. Thank you is all I can say. I am beyond grateful to get this help so I can be successful in main stream high school and post secondary."

-Grade 8 Grove School student

DDSB Agency Partners

The DDSB currently partners with 13 community agencies in the provision of ECPP opportunities for children and adolescents to offer 50 program classes during the school year. This breadth of partnership and programs is the second largest ECPP in the province of Ontario. Many of the ECPPs also operate through the summer months (Summer 2023–17 programs in July and 12 programs in August). The geographical area for access for each partnership is the boundary of the community agency.

Partners for the 2023-2024 school year are (in alphabetical order):

Chimo Youth & Family Services, chimoyouth.ca

Collaborative Community Connections Ltd., collaborativecommunityconnections.ca

Durham Family Court Clinic, dfcc.org Enterphase Child & Family Services, enterphase.com Fostering Family Relations Inc., fosteringfamilyrelations.ca Frontenac Youth Services, frontenacyouthservices.org Kennedy House, kennedyhouse.org Kinark Child & Family Services, kinark.on.ca Lake Ridge Community Support Services, Ircss.com Lakeridge Health, lakeridgehealth.on.ca Murray McKinnon Foundation, murraymckinnon.ca Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, ontarioshores.ca

Youth Connections Inc., youthconnectionsinc.ca

More information about each community agencies can be found on the Grove School website at <u>grove.ddsb.ca</u>, or through connection direction with the organization.

Ministry of Education ECPP Guide

The Ministry of Education provides support and evaluation of ECPP programs. Each program class is renewed on an annual basis. For further information about ECPP foundations, view the Ministry of Education <u>Guidelines for Approval</u> and Provision of an ECPP 2023-24 document.



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"Grove School has positively impacted me in many ways. The staff are very understanding of the situations that have impacted my ability to complete high school in a regular time frame. My mental health was put first which tremendously helped me in being able to complete my courses. My teacher and my mental health nurse were very accommodating and supportive throughout my time here and helped to keep me on track with my goals." –Grade 12 Grove School student



"I want to share how my time at Grove School has been a great experience for me. My teachers and staff have helped me with everything I know to this day. I have learned to be more responsible for my actions thanks to my teachers and Child and Youth Workers." —Grade 12 Grove student

"Grove teachers are able to develop relationships with students that allow them to design lessons and learning opportunities that involve the interests of their specific students. We can work one on one with students on a daily basis to determine where the gaps are in their learning and we can concentrate our efforts on those curriculum expectations.

Grove teachers are expected to conduct meaningful assessments frequently to ensure the maximum growth for each student, many of whom only stay with us for a semester or less.

Grove teachers are at the forefront when it comes to providing students with opportunities for Social Emotional Learning and they often have developed strategies for students who have not had the opportunity to be appropriately assessed but still require accommodations to their educational programming. When Grove teachers work in collaboration with the Agency team, they can contribute to the emotional wellbeing of the student long after the student has left Grove school by providing strategies for self regulation which can lead to future academic success.

Grove teachers choose to show up everyday with a renewed sense of determination and they strive to make every child in their classroom be seen."

-Grove teacher

"Grove School provides a sense of belonging for our students and represents a safe, and nonjudgmental space where they can work on their academics with exceptional teaching and support staff. Grove empowers students to achieve their goals while learning valuable life skills."

> -Enterphase Child & Family Services Day Treatment Management, Jen Phillips and Marissa Simmons

"The Day Treatment Program provides the space for the youth in the program to work through mental health challenges with supportive staff. The staff's approach of meeting the youth where they are at emotionally and academically has been successful with many of the youth in the programs."

-Frontenac Family & Youth Services Manager, Melanie Brynaert

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For more information about the DDSB Inclusive Student Services Impact Update, please visit <u>DDSB Inclusive Student Services</u>.

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