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## INTRODUCTION

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### PURPOSE

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This handbook was written as a resource guide for Student Services in Turtle Mountain School Division. It contains current policies and procedures that have been linked to online government documents wherever applicable. The manual will incorporate new policies and procedures as they are developed. It is intended primarily for use by administrators, school teams and student services professionals. Other professionals, parents/guardians and community members may also find it useful.

### USING THE HANDBOOK

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Policies and procedures in Student Services change as research and practices evolve and new policies are developed. This handbook will be updated periodically and new pages will be marked with the release date. Readers are urged to check that the manual they are using is current.

### PHILOSOPHY OF INCLUSION

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Students with special needs should experience school in much the same way as their peers.

*Turtle Mountain School Division is committed to fostering inclusion for all people.*

*Inclusion is a way of thinking and acting that allows every individual to feel accepted, valued and safe. An inclusive community consciously evolves to meet the changing needs of its members. Through recognition and support, an inclusive community provides meaningful involvement and equal access to the benefits of citizenship.*

*In Turtle Mountain School Division we embrace inclusion as a means of enhancing the well-being of every member of the community. By working together, we strengthen our capacity to provide the foundation for a richer future for all of us.*

To make inclusion applicable in Turtle Mountain School Division schools, educators will:

- Foster school and classroom communities where all students, including those with diverse needs and abilities, have a sense of personal belonging and achievement.
- Identify and foster practices by which students with a wide range of learning needs can be taught together effectively
- Enhance, through modeling and instruction, student abilities to deal with diversity
- Offer students an environment that provides potential for dignified, meaningful relationships
- Provide all students with appropriate supports, including instructional placements, to develop their personal best in a setting that respects their abilities.

- Help each student contribute to the classroom and school community
- Develop and maintain competencies for achieving these principles
- Refer to the following website for additional information:

[www.edu.gov.ca/K12/specedu/aep/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.ca/K12/specedu/aep/index.html)

Student Services in Turtle Mountain School Division provide classroom teachers and students 'Support for Success'