

QUEBEC EDUCATION PROGRAM (Q.E.P)

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Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et de Sport

Quebec schools have a threefold mission:

- To provide instruction.
- To socialize.
- To provide qualifications.

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) supports this mission, and encourages schools to be responsive to each student's potential and personal aspirations. With this approach, MELS aims to meet the educational needs of today's young people by teaching them the strategies that they will need to help them face the challenges of tomorrow.

The QEP programs are based on studies that have given insight into how human beings learn and how learning can be lifelong and useful to us, both as individuals and as members of society.

How can the parents help?

- Work with the teacher in supporting your child's learning.
- Talk to your child about his or her day in school so they can share with you the activities in which they have engaged.
- Volunteer in the school.
- Ask to see your child's work.
- Engage your child in discussing new ideas and opinions. Make learning fun.
- Show appreciation for good efforts.

Let's

talk about...

Combined Classes

Grades
Primary to Six

The Lester B. Pearson School Board provides varied learning experiences to meet students' diverse needs and allows for choices within a structured framework.

Many of the schools in the Lester B. Pearson School Board offer combined classes in which students learn across two grades.



What is a combined class?

A combined class includes more than one grade level and one age in a classroom. All classes, combined or single-grade; include students with a wide range of skills and abilities. The combined class offers programs which respond to both the needs of the individual and the needs of the class. Whether a child is very talented, or one who requires extra support, each will be challenged to meet his or her potential equally, as much in a combined class as in a single-grade class. Research shows that an age range of greater than one year provides a level of intellectual stimulation that supports the development of both intellectual and academic competence.

What are the considerations for COMBINED CLASSES?



There are many considerations taken into account when principals and teachers group students into classes. Among others, these may include:

- Learning styles
- Social skills
- Academic abilities

In all classrooms, whether single-grade or combined, the range of student achievement levels is broad. Schools are obligated to create classroom environments that support the needs of all students.

Combined classrooms offer environments that:

- Are responsive to individual and group needs.
- Support individual learning styles.
- Involve and engage all students in active learning.

What effect will a COMBINED CLASS have on my child?



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Many studies have found that there are no significant achievement differences between combined classes and single-grade classes. In addition, some students in combined classes do better in oral and written language and in reading.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Research shows that combined age groupings lead to more positive student attitudes and behaviour than single-age groupings. The many opportunities for emotional and social growth provide rich social environments which encourage students to:

- Work both independently and as part of a team.
- Build leadership skills.
- Develop decision making skills.
- Become more self-motivated, self-confident and responsible.



How can the teacher teach a COMBINED CLASS?

Teaching in combined classes requires that teachers use a variety of different strategies as they would in single-grade classes. Every day teachers work with both large and small groups, as well as, individual students. Differentiated teaching strategies help to meet the individual needs of all students.

Combined classes offer the benefit of a broader support structure. There are many opportunities for reinforcing knowledge and positive social behaviors. This often leads to improved study habits, social interaction and co-operation skills.