



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Special Education Intervention

Description of the Initiative:

The Special Education Component of the Student Intervention Initiative is expected to be rolled out in all four schools identified on the LMSIP Project. These schools have had a history of underachievement and low academic performance. Over the last three years, the two secondary schools have had an intake of over one hundred students scoring under thirty percent (30%) in the Secondary Entrance Assessment Examination.

The initial closure of schools, the subsequent implementation of hybrid learning initiatives due to the ongoing COVID Pandemic, along with the pressures it has placed on the education system, have been major contributing factors in exacerbating the learning gaps among the general school population. This challenge is even more poignant for those students, diagnosed and undiagnosed, with disabilities and other special needs.

It is estimated that approximately four hundred students assigned to the two Secondary schools, namely, Success Laventille Secondary and Morvant Laventille Secondary, are performing below fifty percent (50%). This estimate does not include students already referred and identified with disabilities and additional special education needs attending these schools. A similar dynamic of underperformance exists at the selected primary schools, St. Barb's Government and Bentham Government.

Student screening will allow for the detection of developmental and learning delays, and the identification of potential disabilities/special education needs, among the student population. Late identification of special needs/disabilities and gaps in learning, contributes to poor academic performance, negates the benefits early intervention, and increases the rates of student absenteeism and school avoidance. Timely screening and assessment will provide opportunities for students with special

needs to have their specific learning needs assessed and addressed to maximize their learning potential.

The central aim of this initiative is to ensure that these schools and the students they serve, benefit from educational experiences that will positively impact student learning and development.

This Special Education Intervention initiative aims to:

1. Identify students in need of targeted intervention
2. Assess the learning needs of students at respective schools
3. Provide guidance, training and support for the school-based intervention process
4. Identify the special education needs/learning gaps of individual students
5. Provide targeted intervention and support for learners with special education needs.

The key performance indicators that will be tracked during implementation of this initiative include:

1. Number of students screened (Baseline data on students suspected of having disabilities or learning/behavioral challenges)
2. Identification of school and individual factors impacting student learning and performance
3. Number of students diagnosed with special needs in targeted schools (Prevalence data)
4. Screening data indicating current levels of performance and learning gaps
5. Number of initial Intervention Plans (IEP, AIS) developed and implemented
6. Performance Data - showing progress/improvement in Student Achievement

