

July 31, 2019

Kimberly Churchill  
Chair  
Children's Language Acquisition Support System  
40 Marian Place  
Portugal Cove-St. Phillips, NL  
A1M 3T5

Dear Ms. Churchill:

Thank you for submitting your request seeking approval to offer the "Gain a Super Power Program" in Elementary Schools operated by the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District. The Program is offered by Children's Language Acquisition Support System (CLASS) in St. John's and surrounding areas. As per your request the District has completed a second comprehensive review of the Program as submitted to this office.

The Program aligns with the District's values of inclusion and fostering safe and caring schools. The District believes positive relationships within the school community permits students to create a strong and supportive social network, develop emotional well-being and achieve academically to the best of their ability. Students who are interested in learning American Sign Language (ASL) will foster a more inclusive environment for those students using ASL to communicate.

The goal of this Program is second language instruction. American Sign Language is a language with its own vocabulary and rule-driven grammar. As this program aligns with curriculum outcomes in both English Language Arts and Elementary Core French, it was necessary for the District to confirm it did not encroach on the scope of practice for Teachers employed in our schools. The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association has provided assurance it does not regard the Program to come within the scope of practice of its members.

The District also consulted the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for the Deaf (NLAD) on the Program. This was to ensure that those with an interest in ASL were consulted. As a matter of interest, NLAD recommended that ASL instruction be provided by

those who are certified to offer same. While the District would see the benefit of their recommendation, we are not mandating certification as part of this approval.

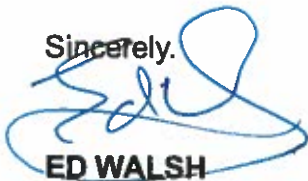
This is to advise that the Program has been approved by the District subject to the following conditions.

1. School participation in the Gain a Super Power Program is voluntary and is to be determined by each school. The decision to offer the Program rests with the school administrator. CLASS is to contact Administrators to offer the Program.
2. Promotional material for the Gain a Super Power Program shall be approved the District prior to distribution.
3. Any change to the content of the program must be approved by the District prior to it being delivered to students.
4. The District approval is contingent on the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association continued position that it does not consider the Program to come within the scope of practice for its members.
5. The Program can only be offered during non-instructional times i.e. Lunch time and after school. Supervision for all sessions will be conducted in accordance with the District's policy on Student Supervision. You may review this policy at <https://www.nlesd.ca/includes/files/policies/doc/1456154597890.pdf>
6. Criminal Records Screening Certificates with Vulnerable Sector Check must be provided for each CLASS volunteer in accordance with the District's policy on Criminal Records Screening Certificates and Vulnerable Sector Check. You may review this policy at <https://www.nlesd.ca/includes/files/policies/doc/1456152074796.pdf>

The District reserves the right to review and, if deemed appropriate, withdraw approval for the Program at its discretion.

Please feel free to contact my office should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



**ED WALSH**

Associate Director of Education - Programs and Operations

