

What happens at the S.A.L.E.P. Committee meeting?

- One or both parents/ guardian and the student must attend the S.A.L.E.P. Committee meeting.
- The school presents information relevant to the student's achievements and needs.
- The S.A.L.E.P. Facilitator recommends a proposed program that responds to the student's most immediate needs.
- The parent(s)/guardian has an opportunity to address the Committee to explain the reasons for the application.
- The Committee has an opportunity to ask clarifying questions of both the student and parent(s)/guardian.
- The S.A.L.E.P. Committee either approves or rejects the application.

What happens if the S.A.L.E.P. Committee rejects the application?

The student is required to attend at his/her school.

What happens if the S.A.L.E.P. Committee approves the application?

- The student receives a S.A.L.E.P. card which allows him/her to be legally excused from school.
- The parent(s)/guardian receives a DOCUMENT OF APPROVAL which outlines the terms and conditions of the S.A.L.E.P. program
- The S.A.L.E.P. Facilitator monitors the student and reports to the Committee and the school, at regular intervals.

Can my child return to school after S.A.L.E.P.?

- While in a S.A.L.E.P. program, students are still considered to be full-time students and continue to be recorded on the register of their home school.
- Students are encouraged to return to school after participating in S.A.L.E.P.

Who can I contact for more information on S.A.L.E.P.?

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**York Catholic District
School Board**

**SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE
LEARNING FOR
EXCUSED PUPILS**

(S.A.L.E.P.)

For Secondary Students Aged
14 to 17 Years Old

- A PARENT GUIDE -

What is Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (S.A.L.E.P.)?

S.A.L.E.P is an option, under the Education Act (Regulation 308), for secondary school students (aged 14-17) who are not experiencing success in school. S.A.L.E.P. is the only means for a student aged 14-17 years to be legally excused from attendance at school for a lengthy period of time.

What learning opportunities are available through S.A.L.E.P.?

S.A.L.E.P. provides students and their parents with the opportunity to participate in activities that are responsive to the student's most immediate needs. Activities may include:

- engaging in volunteer experience
- employment (full or part-time)
- participation in an employment readiness program
- participation in a community-based youth program
- enrollment in private counselling services (individual and/or family)
- enrollment in a personal life management program
- participation in a treatment program

Note — Each case is considered separately.

Who can be considered for S.A.L.E.P.?

Once all school-based and board-based supports and resources have been exhausted, parents of students aged 14 to 17 years may apply to the S.A.L.E.P. Committee if the student:

- requires a planned leave from school to address personal and /or familial concerns
- has failing grades due to extenuating circumstances
- has social, emotional, or behavioural challenges that compromise his/her chances for success at school
- will benefit from a practical, short-term employment experience
- is experiencing attendance problems due to personal challenges and/or obstacles impeding success in school

Who can apply for S.A.L.E.P. ?

- Only a parent/guardian can apply for S.A.L.E.P.

How does a parent(s)/guardian apply for S.A.L.E.P.?

- A parent/guardian informs the school administration of his/her intention to apply for S.A.L.E.P.
- The school contacts the S.A.L.E.P. Facilitator who organizes a meeting with the family to discuss:
 - reasons for the application
 - S.A.L.E.P. legislation
 - the parent's proposed S.A.L.E.P. program
 - pre-S.A.L.E.P. trial period
 - parent and student application forms
 - date and time of S.A.L.E.P. Committee meeting.

Who is on the S.A.L.E.P. Committee?

The S.A.L.E.P. Committee consists of a board official, a Trustee of the York Catholic District School Board, and two community representatives.

Bill 52 became law on December 20, 2006. It changed the Education Act to extend the age of compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18 years. It assigns penalties, upon conviction, to parents/guardians and employers, and additional consequences to students. Parents cannot voluntarily withdraw their children from school.