

EAGLES Essential Eligibility Requirements

The EAGLES program is a year-round life skills enrichment daytime program designed to meet the needs of persons 18–50 years old with developmental disabilities, as well as other disabilities. It is generally SEASPAR's intent to accommodate all participants for SEASPAR programs regardless of his or her needs. However, not all persons with disabilities are eligible for the EAGLES program. EAGLES participants must have minimum cognitive and physical abilities to participate in this program. Due to the nature, goals, expense, and transportation needs of this program, it is necessary to limit eligibility only to those individuals who do not require a staff specifically assigned to that person. Examples of some accommodations that would not be considered reasonable include: the need to hire additional staffing, modifications in activity that take away or deviate from the basic nature of the activity, and personal care.

When finding whether an individual is appropriate for the EAGLES program, we observe a few things before making a decision. We look for individuals who can communicate independently, are physically independent, and need minimal assistance with daily living skills and behavior interventions. We also look for individuals who understand and are aware of dangerous situations as well as being able to participate socially in the program. The EAGLES program is designed for individuals who can perform in a 1:6 staffing ratio.

Therefore, upon hearing from an interested individual, a SEASPAR staff member will schedule an assessment which will determine the specific needs of that registrant and whether the registrant meets the eligibility requirements. Next steps may include an observation in the classroom (for students) and a trial day at the program. After the participant is assessed and eligibility is determined, a staff member will contact the participant or family member within a week to inform them if the participant is eligible for the EAGLES program. All decisions regarding eligibility rest with SEASPAR.

Criteria:

Code of Conduct – All participants must follow the general code of conduct:

- Show respect to all participants, staff, and public
- Listen to and comply with staff direction and program rules
- Allow others in the program and others at public facilities to enjoy the activity without disruption (within reason)
- Refrain from using foul language or other offensive behaviors such as offensive gestures, sexually explicit language, or inappropriate touching
- Refrain from causing bodily harm or offensive physical contact
- Show respect to equipment, supplies, and facilities

Behavior – All participants must show appropriate behavior that will not affect the safety of any individual including his or herself.

Personal Care – All participants must be able to care for their own personal needs with reasonable accommodation. With no assistance, individuals must be able to use the washroom and change themselves independently.

Participation Expectations – Due to the nature of the EAGLES program, all participants must:

- Actively participate in the variety of planned activities
- Interact with peers for an extended period of time
- Cope positively with changing situations
- Demonstrate flexibility

Health Requirements – Due to the high activity level, participants must be able to physically tolerate the logistics of the program.

Communication – All participants must be able to communicate their wants and needs independently. They need to be able to communicate independently in a small group setting with their peers.