



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 107**  
Answered on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2026  
Fifth Meeting 2025-2026 Session – Second Sitting

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**  
**ASKED BY**

**HON. KENNETH V. BRYAN**  
**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE**  
**CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN CENTRAL**

**TO**

**HON. ROLSTON M. ANGLIN**  
**MINISTER OF EDUCATION & TRAINING**

**QUESTION:**

Can the Honourable Minister for Education provide a detailed breakdown of the official application process and eligibility criteria for government-funded special education services, specifically for constituents with Down Syndrome who lack the private means to afford specialised care?

**ANSWER:**

Access to Government-funded special education services in the Cayman Islands is guided by the Code of Practice, which sets out a clear, phased approach to identifying and supporting children with additional needs across early years, school, and post-compulsory provision.

**Application Process:**

For most children, support typically begins in a child's early childhood centre or school, where needs are identified through ongoing assessment. A graduated approach is used, starting with classroom or centre-based support and progressing to specialist services where required.

In some cases, children may not yet be enrolled in an educational setting. In these instances, the Ministry, through the Department of Education Services' Early Intervention Programme (EIP) and the Ministry's Early Childhood Care Unit, works closely with partner agencies, including the Health Services Authority and the Department of Children and Family Services, to support early identification. Once identified, EIP services are engaged to assess the child and determine the appropriate support.

Where needs are more complex, a Learning Support Plan or Statement of Educational Needs may be developed. These are coordinated through School or Centre-Based Support Teams. Placement

decisions are based on assessed need and may include mainstream settings with support, Learning Support Classrooms, or specialist provision such as the Lighthouse School.

If Government provision cannot fully meet a child's needs, cases may be referred to the Alternative Education Placement Panel (AEPP) for consideration of external placement, with funding support provided through the Education Council.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Eligibility is based on the child's level of need and how it affects their access to education, rather than the diagnosis alone. While Down Syndrome is a recognised diagnosis, support is determined by assessed educational, developmental, and care needs.

**Early Years Provision (Centres):** Support is available within early childhood centres through the Early Childhood Assistance Programme (ECAP), which provides funding for Caymanian children aged three and above, subject to means testing. In exceptional cases, including children with special educational needs, support may be approved earlier with appropriate documentation.

**Post-Compulsory Provision:** Support continues through programmes such as the Sunrise Adult Training Centre, which provides life skills, employability training, and community-based support based on individual needs and capacity.

The Ministries goal is to progress the restoration of five-days of service provision at the Sunrise Adult Training Centre. Resourcing requirements have been submitted and an interim site assessment is underway as part of a phased approach toward a purpose-built facility.

**Cost to Families:** Government-funded services within public schools and supported centres are provided at no cost to families. ECAP provides funding directly to early childhood centres, and additional support may be approved for children with special educational needs. AEPP also provides funding support where external placement is required.

This ensures that Caymanian children with additional needs can access appropriate education and support, regardless of their family's financial circumstances.

All services may be accessed at the relevant stage of provision through the following contact points:

- **Early Years:**
  - Ministry of Education and Training – Early Childhood Unit ([earlychildhood@gov.ky](mailto:earlychildhood@gov.ky))
  - Early Childhood Assistance Programme (ECAP) ([moeapplications@gov.ky](mailto:moeapplications@gov.ky))
  - Department of Education Services – Early Intervention Programme (telephone: 945-1199; website: [www.des.edu.ky](http://www.des.edu.ky))
- **Compulsory School Age:**
  - Department of Education Services – Support Services Unit ([education@gov.ky](mailto:education@gov.ky); telephone: 945-1199; website: [www.des.edu.ky](http://www.des.edu.ky))
  - Ministry of Education and Training – Alternative Education Placement Panel (email: [inclusion@gov.ky](mailto:inclusion@gov.ky); telephone: 949-7900)
- **Post-Compulsory:**
  - Sunrise Adult Training Centre ([infoSATC@gov.ky](mailto:infoSATC@gov.ky); telephone: 949-3330)