

## Day Education Programs

School systems, within commuting distance of Ranch Ehrlo, regularly access the Society's services for students in their jurisdiction. These students, many of whom have behavioural problems, are placed at the Ranch in a Day Educational Program. The Day Education Program provides educational services for the students and may, if required, extend treatment services to the student's entire family.

## Work Training

Work training is used as an option where a resident fails to progress in the educational program. This program entails finding employment for the student for a period of time after which the student may either be returned to the educational program or placed in a suitable work situation.

## Vocational Programs

The Ranch Ehrlo education program offers a variety of vocational skill development opportunities to youth (15 years of age or older), who no longer attend high school.

- Community Vocational Program - Work training experience and skill development are provided on a 12-month basis. Program focus includes developing a positive work ethic, promoting social learning, and post-discharge employment opportunities.
- Essentials 1 Computer Training - IT training delivered by Schaller College, a private vocational school, registered by Advanced Education Employment. Major hardware and software vendors, distributors and resellers accept the certificate as the standard for service technicians.
- Avant-Garde College - Avant-Garde is a cosmetology and esthetics training college and salon. Classes in esthetics, cosmetology and professional make-up are held throughout the year.

## Admission Criteria

The educational programs of the Ranch Ehrlo Society are available to students between eight and 21 years of age, although exceptions are made in some circumstances. Admission is open to male and female students.

Gifted students are also welcomed. Most students are admitted to the agency's educational programs by referral. Day Education students are referred by local school boards on a direct contract basis.



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# Ranch Ehrlo Society

**Ranch Ehrlo Society**  
**Educational**  
**Services**

## Schaller & Ellen Gunn Education Centres

Schaller and Ellen Gunn Education Centres comprise the rural campus educational program at Ranch Ehrlo. In addition, the Ranch operates various integrated classrooms within local schools in Regina and Prince Albert. The education program is accredited by the Independent Schools Branch of Saskatchewan Education which oversees the approved programs of instruction and social remediation offered as an alternative educational service.

Ranch Ehrlo's goal is to place as many students as possible into the regular school systems operated by the Public and Catholic School Boards in Regina, Prince Albert and Saskatoon. The Ranch Ehrlo education program provides an environment for educational assessment and social stabilization for students who need an opportunity to develop the skills necessary for a successful integrated school placement. Ranch Ehrlo classrooms are designed to provide remedial and behavioural instruction as part of a process to return the resident to mainstream services.

Teachers at the Ranch Ehrlo Society are trained in special education and are well qualified by training and experience to teach students with educational problems. The behavioural expectations of students within the educational program are achieved through relationship building, success-oriented activity and supervision. Corporal punishment is not allowed.

Schaller and Ellen Gunn Education Centres admit students throughout the academic year. Upon admission, teachers employ a range of educational and behavioural assessments to determine the level at which a student is functioning. In collaboration with the clinical team, a total service plan is developed, including an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which specifies educational, social, and behavioural objectives for each student.

Since one-third of a resident's life is spent in school, it is imperative that this experience occurs in a safe, caring, and achievement-oriented environment. Consequently, the educational services offered at Ranch Ehrlo incorporate a variety of activities to stimulate the overall competence of each student.

These include, but are not limited to, the following: journal entries; life skills training; cultural studies; current events; community services; life-time leisure skills; computer-assisted learning; home economics; wood-working; arts and crafts; physical education and wellness; and intramurals.

## Residential Campus Programs

The educational complexes on the rural sites are designed to provide remedial academics and behavioural stabilization to facilitate the students' movement to an integrated environment.

### Integrated Classrooms

#### **Elementary**

Students whose behaviors have stabilized are placed in an integrated classroom environment. This service involves renting a classroom from either the respective Public or Catholic School Boards wherein the students are under the direct supervision of a teacher and an educational assistant employed by the Ranch Ehrlo Society. The only difference from a regular school placement is that these classroom populations are kept small so that each student is ensured a high degree of individual attention.

The students are expected to adhere to the established rules and regulations of the school in which they are placed, and thus participation in recess, school assemblies and after-school activities are all part of the students' responsibilities.

Cooperative relationships between Ranch Ehrlo teachers and teachers in the regular system assist in the integration process. On an individual basis, many students who are academically ready are integrated into regular classrooms.

Support for this process occurs through Ranch classroom staff having daily communication with the classroom teacher and providing supervision during times the student is not in integrated classes.

#### **Secondary**

As students reach a level of academic and behavioral readiness, they are placed into a school operated by the Public or Catholic School Board. The student then assumes responsibility for regular attendance, for maintaining the expectations of the school, and for other such associated rights and responsibilities that are given full-time students.

Support at this level continues in the following ways:

- the principals of Schaller and Ellen Gunn Education Centres meet regularly with the administration of the classroom teacher to monitor the students' progress, which in turn, is relayed to the student;

- the clinical team monitors the student's academic progress and provides continued counselling and support;
- the residential team conducts a daily review of the student's progress in order to provide additional support and guidance.

The collective work of the residential, clinical, and educational teams involved with each resident, is the means by which success is achieved. Consistent and clear messages reinforce values and provide the needed incentive or positive achievement.

### Supported Learning

A variation of the integrated classroom environment occurs at the secondary education level where a Ranch-employed teacher, or educational assistant, does not have a classroom but acts as a liaison with all teachers who have students from Ranch Ehrlo in their classrooms. If a problem arises, this person is available for consultation to help resolve the problem. The Ranch Ehrlo system is designed to respond to changing situations.

Ranch Ehrlo stresses the value of its involvement with schools in the integrated program. In a review, the Director of the Independent School Branch stated:

*"The networking among the Regina and Schaller Schools was viewed as highly desired and commendable... While each of the systems have benefited, those being served have clearly profited the most."*

-Excerpt from a 1992 letter to the Chairman of the Board of Directors from Alex Postnikoff, Director Saskatchewan Education.



Schaller Education Centre