

Section M: EQUIPMENT

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FEEDBACK

[We value your feedback! Please click this feedback link to leave your suggestions/comments on the 2023-2024 Special Education Plan.](#)

Purpose of the Standard

To inform the ministry, board staff members and other professionals, and parents about the provision of individualized equipment for some students with special needs

Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Funding

The Special Equipment Amount (SEA) funding from the Ministry of Education assists with the costs of equipment essential to supporting students with special education needs in accessing the curriculum, in accessing an alternative program and/or course, and in attending school. SEA funding is made up of two components (SEA Per-Pupil Amount and SEA Claims-Based Amount) which are allocated by the TDSB through an internal process that follows the Ministry of Education's [Special Education Funding Guideline for SEA](#), posted on the Ministry website.

Portability of SEA Equipment

When a student for whom SEA equipment was purchased using SEA funding moves from the TDSB to a new school board, school authority or hospital school authority in Ontario, the equipment must move with the student, unless in the opinion of the new district school board, school authority or hospital school authority, it is not practical to do so. When making a decision about transferring such equipment, both parties should consider factors such as a student's best interests, software compatibility and the efficiency of completing a transfer. The final decision as to whether it is practical to transfer such equipment will be made by the new district school board, school authority or hospital school authority. The new district school board will be responsible for any shipping or handling costs associated with the timely and effective transfer of equipment. SEA Equipment does not transfer to private schools or post-secondary institutions, employment settings, or home-schooling or out of province/country schools.

SEA Claims-Based Amount

The SEA Claims-Based Amount supports the purchases of non-computer-based equipment to be utilized by students with special education needs, including hearing support equipment, vision support equipment, personal care support equipment and physical support equipment.

Criteria for Eligibility

Students do not have to be identified as exceptional pupils through the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) process to be eligible for equipment funded through SEA funding. However, students must be receiving special education programs and services and the use of SEA-funded equipment must be indicated in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). The student's equipment needs must be documented by an assessment or assessments from an appropriately qualified professional.

Examples of Claims-Based Equipment

- print enlargers for students with low vision
- computer hardware for Blind/Low-Vision students
- adjustable desks
- Braille
- symbol or letter voice translators
- FM systems
- gross motor equipment (balls, wedges, rolls, etc.)
- sensory input equipment (weighted vests, blankets, etc.)
- positioning devices for sitting, standing and lying
- personal care items such as change tables or commodes
- ceiling lifts, portable person lifts and/or harnesses

SEA Per-Pupil Amount

The SEA Per-Pupil Amount funds the purchase of computer-based technology including software programs to support students with special education needs. This funding is used to purchase equipment assigned to individual students as well as licenses for programs available to all students in the TDSB. SEA funding also provides training, maintenance and support in the use of all SEA equipment.

Criteria for Eligibility

To determine if a student is eligible for a SEA claim in the TDSB, the discussion begins at the In-School Team (IST) meeting about use and access to assistive technology. If a student is regularly using assistive technology and requires more access or a dedicated device, a discussion about a SEA claim can begin. The School Support Team determines whether an individual SEA claim application is appropriate. Assistive technology use must be documented in the IEP. All documentation is reviewed by the Special Education and Inclusion Department before individual purchases are made.

Examples of Claims-Based Equipment

- technology hardware (Chromebooks, laptops, iPads) and peripherals/accessories
- individual apps and software that provides access to curriculum for students with special education needs, including reading intervention software
- board-wide licensing for assistive technology software that provides access to curriculum
- mid-tech or high-tech Alternative and Augmentative (AAC) devices
- warranties and/or service contracts for technology
- training on the use of SEA-purchased equipment

Assistive Technology Team

The Assistive Technology Team supports students and staff to effectively use assistive technology across the TDSB, including the use of SEA equipment. The role of the team is to collaborate with schools, administrators, teachers, support staff and students to integrate assistive technology as an effective teaching/learning tool in the classroom, and to build capacity among in-school staff to share best practices.

Ongoing professional learning is provided throughout the year, which includes:

- Sessions about assistive technology tools, (for staff and parents/guardians/caregivers)
- Co-planning and co-teaching sessions using Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Various resources and videos available online for staff and parents/guardians/caregivers

- Supporting the development of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to match students' learning profiles to assistive technology tools

Additional information can be found on the [Assistive Technology page](#) on the TDSB website.