

# Section E: SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)



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

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## ***Purpose of the Standard***

*To provide details of the operation of the Board's SEAC to the Ministry of Education and to give members of the public the information to which they are entitled*

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## **The Role of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

[Regulation 464/97](#) of the Education Act establishes the SEAC as a statutory committee that advises the Board on matters relating to special education and sets out its structure and mandate. TDSB SEAC adopted Part IV of the TDSB Bylaws (2016) for its operating procedures.

Under [Regulation 464/97](#), SEAC:

- May make recommendations to the board respecting matters affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students within the board
- Is provided with opportunities to participate in the annual review of the board's Special Education Plan
- Participates in the board's annual budget process as it relates to special education
- Reviews the financial statements of the board as they relate to special education

The members of SEAC represent students with special education needs who attend schools in the Toronto District School Board. During monthly SEAC meetings, members provide input into the Board's annual program and budget planning processes as they pertain to special education.

## Meeting Times and Locations

All meetings for the 2023-2024 school year will be hybrid (in person and virtual). Meeting times and zoom links can be found on the [SEAC website](#).

## SEAC Membership

The committee currently consists of 12 representatives from local associations, 8 community representatives from four Learning Centres of the TDSB and 3 trustees. Alternate representatives attend meetings regularly and participate in discussions, but do not vote unless substituting for an official representative.

Most SEAC members are parents/guardians/caregivers of TDSB students with special education needs. In December 2022, a new Chair and Vice-Chair were elected for a one-year term. The complete SEAC membership can be found [here](#).

## Membership Selection Procedures

Eligibility requirements for representatives on SEAC are outlined in [Regulation 464/97](#) of the Education Act. SEAC appointments are for a 4-year term and are renewed at the time of municipal elections. Instructions for applying are posted [here](#).

All SEAC representatives must:

- Be qualified to vote for members of the TDSB Board of Trustees (a Canadian citizen over the age of 18 and resident in the jurisdiction)
- Not be employed by the TDSB

[Regulation 464/97](#) permits a Board to appoint community representatives to SEAC. In 2010, trustees increased this membership component from three to eight with an equal number of alternates. Candidates for community representative self-nominate. New nominations are considered in the Fall and Spring of each year. When making community representative appointments, the Board gives additional consideration to:

- Diversity
- Geographical representation from across the TDSB
- Parents/guardians/caregivers with children receiving special education programming in the Toronto District School Board

## SEAC Input into the TDSB Special Education Plan

SEAC's input is a critical part in developing the Special Education Plan. A SEAC Special Education Plan subcommittee meets regularly and also seeks feedback from the public. Discussion during SEAC meetings and information gathered from SEAC subcommittees provide opportunities for in-depth review of Special Education and Inclusion service delivery.

## Parents & Caregivers as Partners Conference

The [TDSB Parents & Caregivers as Partners Conference](#) is organized by parents for parents. SEAC members work collaboratively with other TDSB Community Advisory Committees (CACs) to plan and deliver this annual conference.

In the past, partners have included advisory committees for Mental Health and Well Being; First Nation, Métis and Inuit Communities; Inner City; French as a Second Language; Equity; and parents/guardians/caregivers and central staff from Special Education and Inclusion and Professional Support Services. Through this annual conference, SEAC addresses goals such as inclusion for children with special education needs and builds on the opportunity to empower parents/guardians/ caregivers to become informed, proactive and effective advocates for their children.

## SEAC Contact Information

All information pertaining to SEAC can be accessed through the links below:

### SEAC Website

[TDSB SEAC Homepage](#)

### SEAC Liaison

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