

## Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

March 20, 2023

### Leadership Report

#### **Learning Transformation and Equity - Special Education and Inclusion**

Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Learning Transformation and Equity

Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent of Special Education and Inclusion

### **Canadian Blind Hockey Learn To Skate Program: Field Trip for Students with a Visual Impairment to Learn to Skate**

Canadian Blind Hockey, the national organization for the parasport of blind hockey, hosted TDSB students with a visual impairment at their practice rink on February 1, 2023. At the Scotiabank Pond, 27 students who identify as blind or partially sighted learned to skate and play blind hockey. This annual field trip and partnership with Canadian Blind Hockey has been ongoing for over 20 years and both staff and students were excited to get back on the ice. Students greeted each other with joy and endless conversation as they reconnected.

This opportunity for students with a visual impairment to learn to skate in a safe and supported environment is essential to their inclusion in Canadian culture. Winter sports are a huge part of being Canadian, with most classes planning skating and/or ski trips every year, and we want our students to have the same experiences and opportunities to learn, which they may otherwise be excluded from. Most importantly, with these newfound skills, they will be able to engage in winter sports with their friends once back at their schools.

During the trip, students had the opportunity to go on a sensory tour of the arena, experiencing the dressing room, players' bench, penalty box, and even visiting and learning about the Zamboni through touch and sound at a pace that was respectful to their learning. Students were then taught about the rules of hockey and learned about the functions of the different facets of the arena. Each student was provided with a sighted hockey player guide, skates, jerseys, safety gear, hockey sticks, and tin pucks with a sound source so players could participate in a game of hockey.

In addition, we had over 20 parents attend a parallel parent program around recreational activities for students with a visual impairment. Thank you to the staff who did a great job leading the parent portion! The handout created can be found [here](#) and can be shared digitally with any family who would benefit from this information.

Thanks to the efforts of the incredible Blind/Low Vision team and the coordinator of the program who organized the event, the trip was Canadian Blind Hockey's biggest session this year! Overall, the trip was a huge success!

***"I know my daughter really enjoyed the trip. She loved meeting new friends and connecting with old friends. She loved her first skating experience and was so proud of herself for being brave and attempting to skate. It was such a meaningful experience for her and I know she will remember this trip for a long time. Well done, team!" ~TDSB Parent***

## **Update Special Education Additional Qualifications Subsidy 2022-2023**

In December, we shared the professional learning opportunity for educators to receive a subsidy for completion of a wide-range of Special Education Additional Qualification (AQ) courses in order to increase teacher knowledge and understanding of supporting students with special education needs. We are pleased to have allocated all of the funds provided by the Ministry for this initiative, resulting in 99 educators with additional qualifications in special education.

## **Equals Math Kits for Primary ASD ISPs**

Autism Services is pleased to announce an exciting new Professional Learning opportunity for Primary ASD ISP teachers. Equals Math Kits have been purchased for Primary ASD ISPs to support students developing strong math skills.

Equals math curriculum is a multi-sensory math program developed for students with mild to severe learning challenges. It is based on a foundation of essential math skills which students build upon to develop useful and functional math knowledge and understanding.

Teachers of ASD ISP classrooms will participate in four interactive virtual workshops for support in using this resource. Each session encourages participants to actively engage in learning through group tasks and provides opportunities to share and ask questions and ends with next steps to work on following the session.


## **Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Webinar Sessions**

On Tuesday, February 28 and Wednesday, March 1 Special Education and Inclusion held evening webinar sessions entitled “An Introduction to Special Education and Inclusion in the TDSB for Parents/ Guardians/Caregivers and Families Part 2”. This session focused on supporting IPRC Reviews and Transitions and also provided an opportunity for parents/guardians/caregivers to ask questions about these processes. The sessions were facilitated by Special Education and Inclusion Centrally Assigned Principals and Coordinators and Consultants. The sessions had 127 attendees, who were provided the opportunity to ask questions while the presentations were being held. The recorded session can be accessed on the public website [here](#).



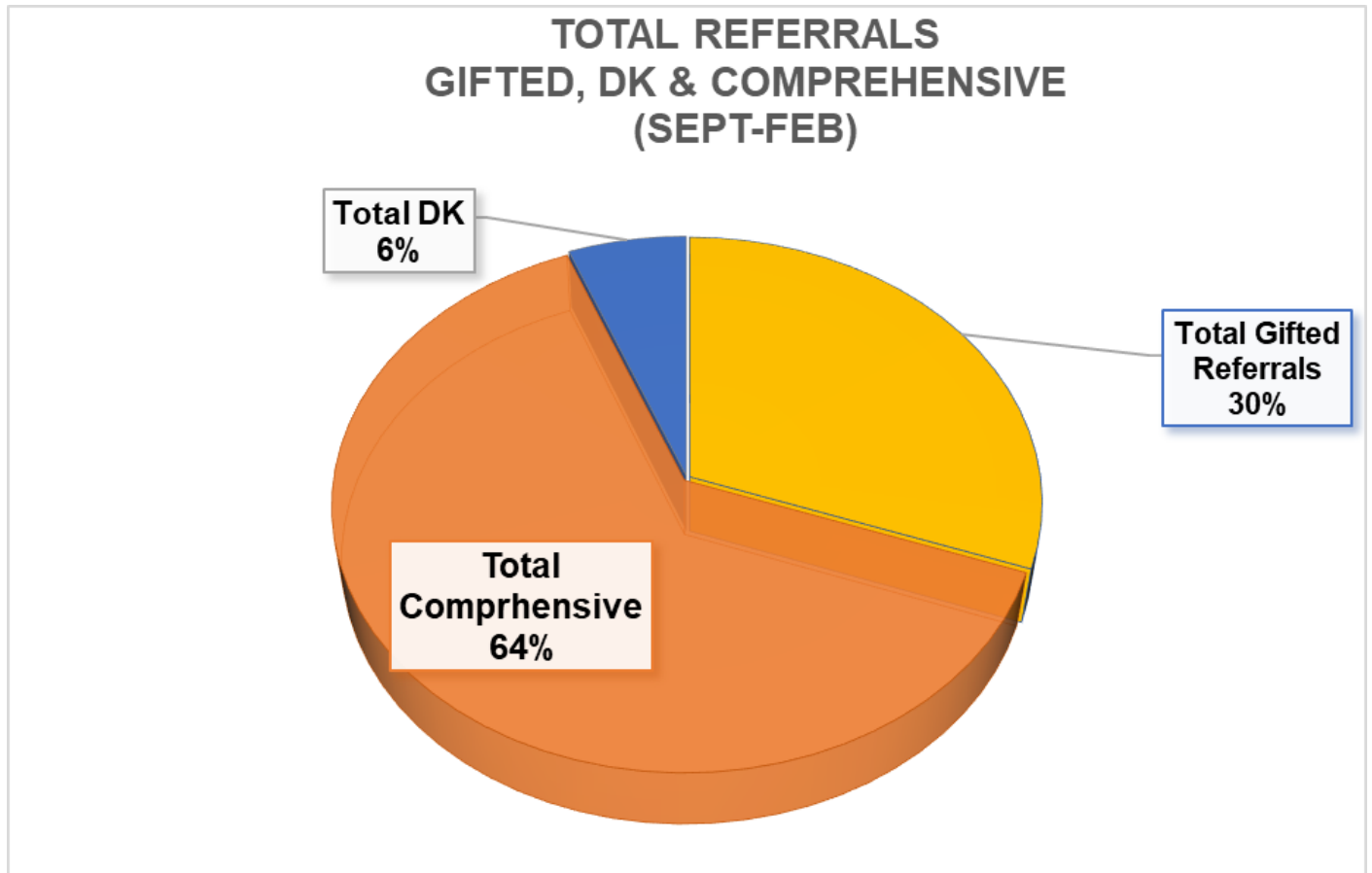
## IPRC Data - February 2023

February IPRCs	
Learning Centre 1	53
Learning Centre 2	52
Learning Centre 3	56
Learning Centre 4	117
IPRCs Completed	278
IPRC Cumulative since August 2022	
IPRC Cumulative since August 2022	1133

 <b>Psychological Services Assessment Statistics</b>					
February 2023					
Month-By-Month	LC1	LC2	LC3	LC4	Total
Completed	152	216	59	205	632
Total Referrals	93	128	99	182	502
Cumulative (since June 2022)					
Completed	476	491	277	537	1781
In Progress	256	259	248	334	1097
Waiting*	223	204	331	402	1160
Removed	48	54	56	116	274
Total Referrals**	1003	1008	912	1389	4312
*80% of <u>total waitlist</u> are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 20% are gifted assessments					
**70% of <u>total referrals</u> are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 30% are gifted assessments					

## Psychological Assessment Data - February 2023

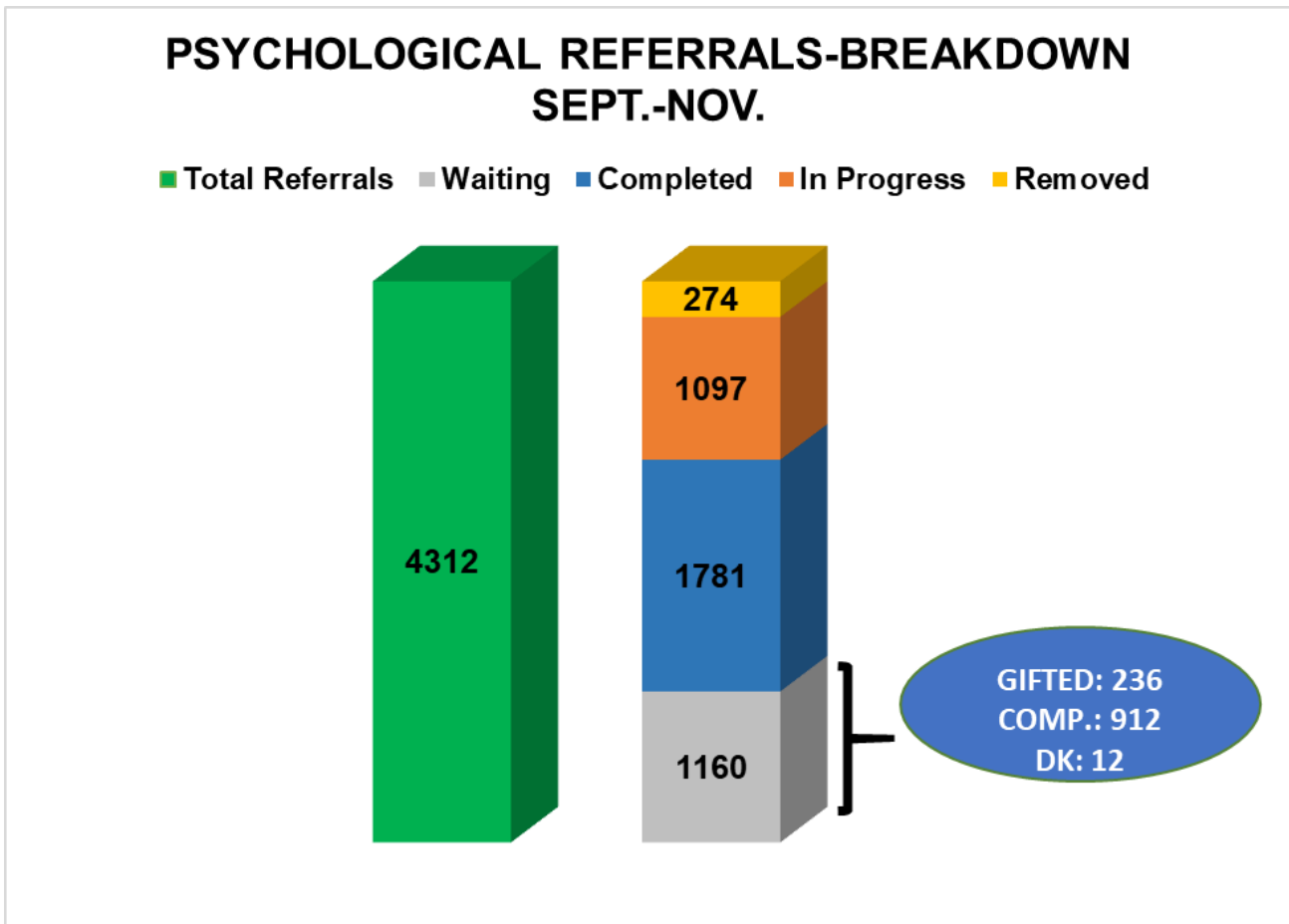
### Assessment Type Waitlist Including 'Aged' Statistics Per Learning Centre



Since September 2022, the total number of referrals is **4312** (*DK-257; Gifted-1315; Comprehensive-2740*)

- Gifted and DK referrals begin in late October, November and continued into January
- Not much change from last month

**Assessment Type Waitlist Including 'Aged' Statistics Per Learning Centre**



For Comprehensive/DK Assessments: October 2022 had 737 Waitlist; November 2022 has 727; December it was 824; January it was 900 and February it is 924. There has been an increase which we expect due to this time of year. **The Comprehensive assessments are continuing, and staff began January 2023 strong with a 5.9% reduction in the comprehensive waitlist from December 2022 and between January and February, there has been a slight increase in the comprehensive/DK assessments by 1.3%.**

- As the DK and Gifted get completed, this waitlist for comprehensive will decrease throughout the school year.

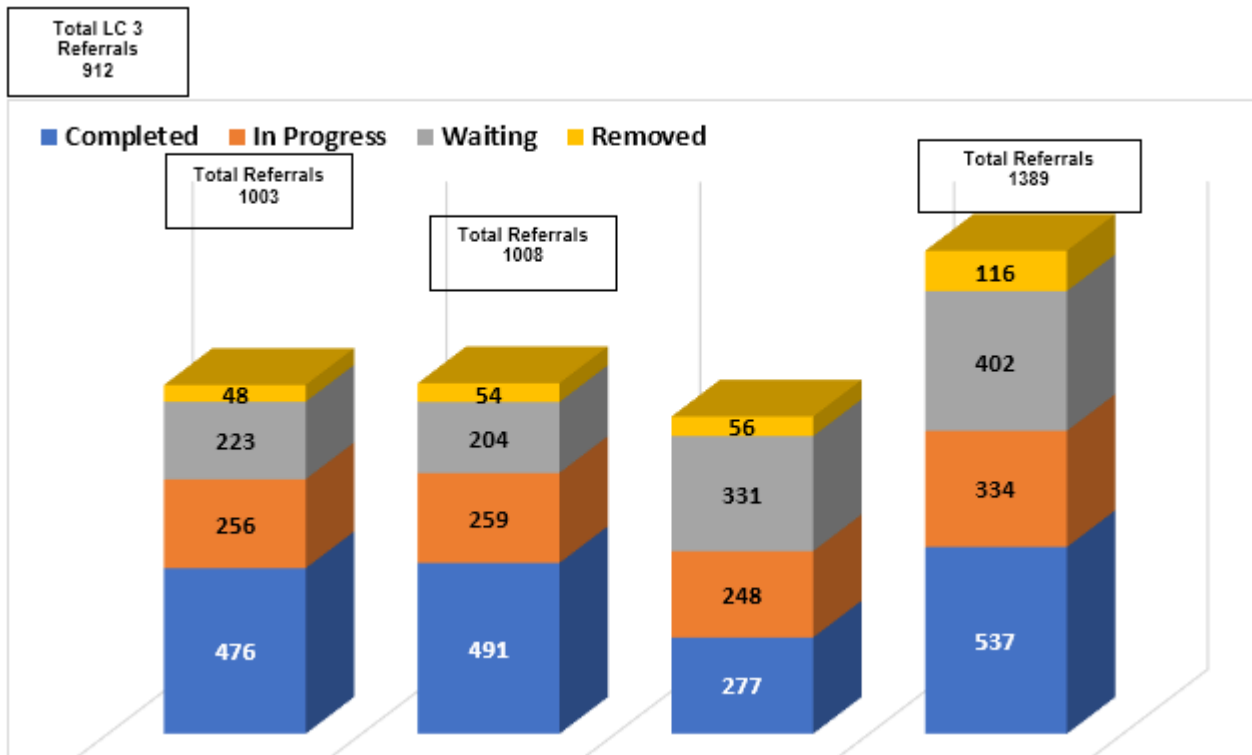
This chart indicates the breakdown of the **4312 psychological referrals (Gifted, Comprehensive & DK)** received since September 2022 to February 2023.

- End of February 2023, **924 Compressive & DK Assessments** are on the waitlist (**912 and 12 are Comprehensive & DK Assessments respectively**)
- **1781 Referrals (Comprehensive & Gifted)** have been completed since September 2022.



**Assessment Type Waitlist Including ‘Aged’ Statistics Per Learning Centre**

- 1097 Referrals (*Comprehensive, DK & Gifted*) are in progress
- 274 have been removed for some these following reasons:
  1. *The parent/guardian has not consented to the assessment*
  2. *The student has left the board*
  3. *The student moved out of the city/region/providence/country*
  4. *Other supports were provided that supported the initial needs which initiated the assessment (trauma therapy; outside private psycho-educational assessment by parent/guardian; supports/differential strategies provided to the educators in the classroom that have positive outcomes etc.)*

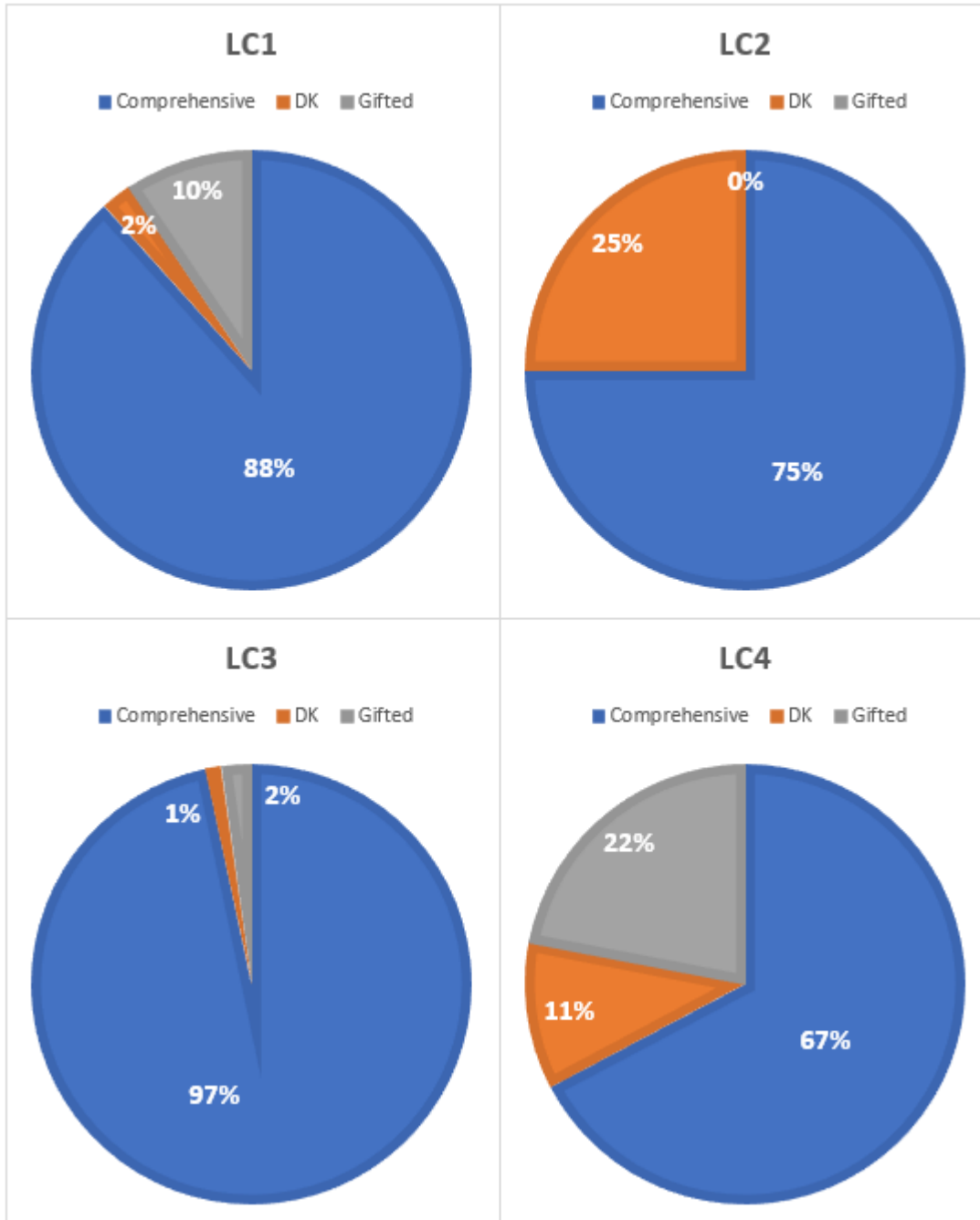


***This chart showcases total referrals (Comprehensive, DK & Gifted) for each LC.***



**Assessment Type Waitlist Including 'Aged' Statistics Per Learning Centre**

*The chart below showcases the breakdown of the waitlist per LC for Comprehensive, DK and Gifted.*



**Assessment Type Waitlist Including ‘Aged’ Statistics Per Learning Centre**

**\*\*The waitlists do vary, and part of this variance includes the following (2021 numbers)**

<b>Learning Centre</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>*Elementary Student Population</b>	<b>*Secondary Student Population</b>	<b>*TOTAL Student Population</b>
1	134	42, 430	20, 258	62, 688
2	136	41, 428	16, 877	58, 305
3	133	40, 878	15, 589	56, 467
4	157	49, 445	17, 837	67, 277

**Higher referral numbers in LC4 are attributed to:**

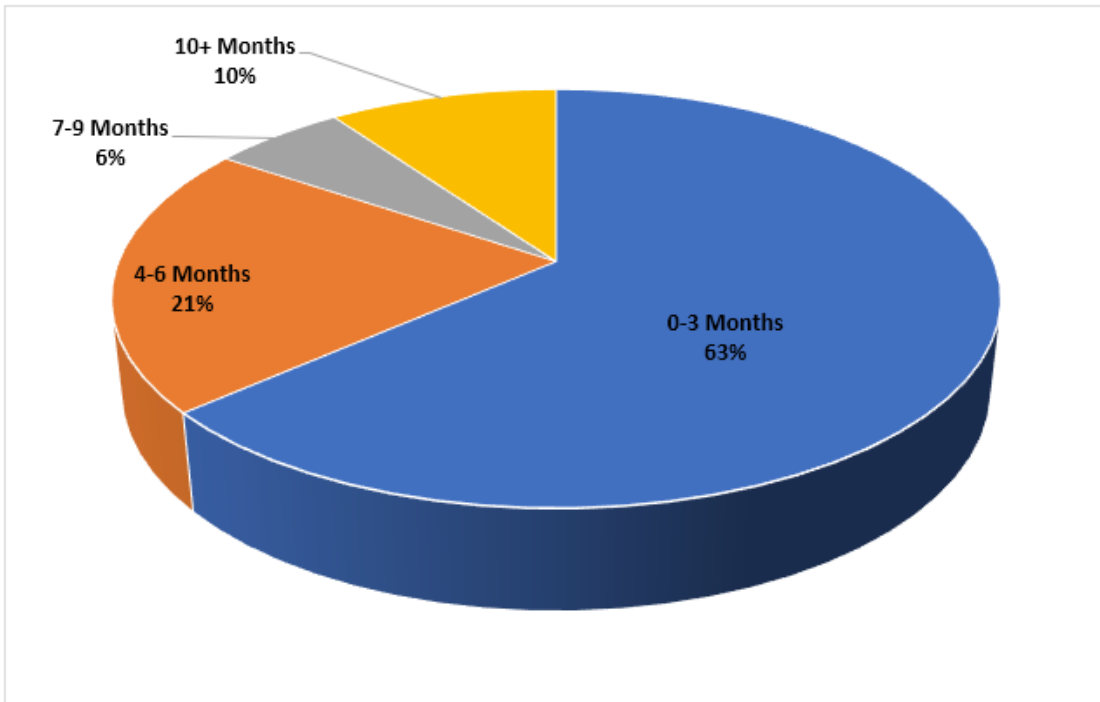
- LC4 has 20 plus schools more than the other LC's
- LC4 has 5000-10,000 more students than the other LC's





**Assessment Type Waitlist Including 'Aged' Statistics Per Learning Centre**

Comprehensive/DK Assessments Aged Waitlist	0-3 Months	4-6 Months	7-9 Months	10+ Months	TOTAL
January 2023	587	193	53	91 <i>(all under 12 months)</i>	924



Psychological staff are continuing to put effort in to comprehensive assessments, that are 6 plus months plus.

Below are some rationales why 6-month comprehensive referrals remain on the waitlist:

- 1) Parent/Guardian want to continue with the assessments and the students are in virtual school where only a portion of psychoeducational assessments can be completed virtually. These students and parents/guardians a being offered local school spaces and administrative buildings to support the completion of in person testing but have declined.



**Assessment Type Waitlist Including 'Aged' Statistics Per Learning Centre**

- 2) Students who left, in between testing, to go out of the country/city/province and want to remain on the wait list.
- 3) Student who enrolled into virtual school in between testing and want to remain on the waitlist.
- 4) Student and parents/guardians who are not responding to the staff and staff are working with the school and Attendance Counselors to locate.

Gifted Assessments Aged Waitlist	0-3 Months	4-6 Months	7-9 Months	10+ Months	TOTAL
January 2023	223	13	0	0	236

