

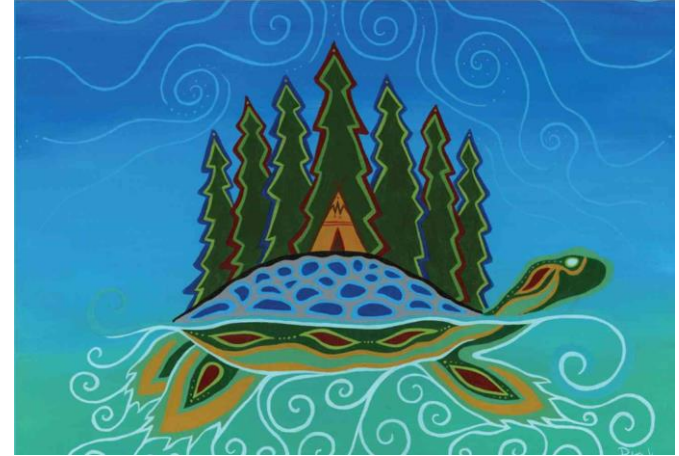
Special Education Advisory Committee

October 2023



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we reside on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognise the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, as well as the importance of establishing and maintaining Cultural Safety through learning from Indigenous Peoples and Perspectives.



Agenda

	Item	Facilitator/ Presenter	Time
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Call to Order (quorum) B. Announce Live Streaming of meeting C. Land Acknowledgement D. Review of Agenda E. Approval of Agenda F. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests G. Approval of SEAC Minutes from September 2023 H. Comments from Chair I. Action Log Update 	<p>Chair</p> <p>Meeting can be viewed live by clicking the Live Stream icon on the tdsb SEAC webpage. https://www.tdsb.on.ca/stream/LiveWebcast-SEAC.html</p>	<p>7:00 - 7:20 (20 minutes)</p>
2	Member Update: Autism Ontario	Leo Lagnado	<p>5 minutes 7:20 - 7:25</p>
3	<p>Leadership Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Action Plan - Facilitated Discussion 	<p>Louise Sirisko Nandy Palmer</p>	<p>7:25- 7:45 20 minutes</p>

Agenda Cont'd

	Item	Facilitator/ Presenter	Time
4	Trustees Report	Trustees	10 minutes 7:45- 7:55
5	SEAC Letter to the Ministry on SIP Funding		5 minutes 7:55 - 8:00
6	Exclusions/Refusal to Admit - Overview and System Expectations - Member Discussion	Staff Members	8:00 - 8:20 20 minutes
7	Round Table Association and Community Updates Working Group Updates (on request)	Members	8:20 - 8:45 25 minutes
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Business ● Correspondence ● Parents as Partners Conference ● Adjournment Next meeting - November 13, 2023 (IEPs, Transportation)	Chair	8:45 - 9:00

Special Education and Inclusion Staff Development Goals

Staff engage in several types of professional learning opportunities throughout the school year to help them better serve students with special education needs. These learning opportunities include compliance training such as the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), Supporting Children with Prevalent Medical Conditions, and mandatory learning such as the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Strategy and Chairing Identification and Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Meetings. Other professional learning opportunities are school-specific, based on the goals of the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Over the next two years, staff will focus on the following four areas for professional learning:

1. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples(UNDRIP)
2. Inclusion (anti-ableism), Equity (anti-oppression) and Well-Being;
3. Learning Conditions; and
4. Universal Design for Learning, Differentiated Instruction and Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy.



We will continue to coherence and align special education a practices, programs structures across th foster more inclusiv environments for st special education n

Professional Learning

To support coherence and alignment and consistency of special education and inclusion practices, and to build capacity, a number of professional learning opportunities have been offered to staff at all levels since the start of the 2023-2024 school year and include:

- Special Education for Newly Appointed Administrators
- Coordinators, Consultants and Central Team Welcome to 2023-2024
- Drop-in Office Hours for Administrators
- School-based IPRC Principal Chair and Committee Member Training
- PA Day Professional Learning Opportunities for Support Staff

Assistive Technology

Students and educators have access to a wide variety of assistive technology programs to support students in accessing learning. Programs can be accessed by any web-enabled device without the need for software installation, and can easily be used at home and at school. Some examples of assistive technology programs available across the TDSB include:

- Read & Write which has built in features to help support students with increasing speed and productivity of writing.
- Orbinote has tools that can help create accessible materials and can support comprehension and fluency.
- WeVideo can support students with tools to demonstrate their understanding in a variety of ways using video and audio.
- Mindomo can support students with organizing their thoughts and ideas using mind maps and other built-in multimedia tools.



Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities Ministry Grants

Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy (OT/PT) Services, in collaboration with Special Education and Inclusion, were successful in being awarded two ministry grants through their “Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities” funding opportunity for the 2023-24 school year.

Grant 1: UDL in MID Intensive Support Programs

The initiative is intended to support students enrolled in Intensive Support Programs (ISPs) with Mild Intellectual Disabilities (MID). This proposed initiative will provide MID ISP educators with professional development on best practices to promote an inclusive, neurodiversity-affirming educational experiences that bolsters mental health and well-being, a sense of belonging, and accessible inclusion; support from OT/PT staff and the provision of resources to be used in the classroom

Grant 2: This is How I Roll – Pilot Project

Students with disabilities are frequently advised to self-advocate, but are seldom provided with the knowledge base, education, and opportunities to practice said skills. This pilot will initiate inquiry and identify needs to substantiate and inform next steps within a larger project. This project will centering their voices and soliciting their input and feedback, explore concepts of disability pride in efforts to bolster their own understanding of their personal priorities, goals, and needs and centre student voice to identify gaps in educational experience.

ONSIS Data

ONSIS data from the 2022-2023 school year (October 2022) for elementary and secondary students has been included in the attachments to this report.

Update on Motion

SEPRC (Special Education Program Recommendation Committee)

At the Regular Meeting of the Board on September 27, 2023, the Board decided that the SEAC motion around SEPRC be referred to staff to communicate with SEAC the Board's plan for reviewing the Special Education Program Recommendation Committee (SEPRC) process and the direction of the TDSB with regard to this process upon completion of the review.

October is Learning Disabilities Month

The Learning Disabilities Associations of Ontario will be marking Learning Disability (LD) Awareness month throughout the month of October. 1 in 10 people in Ontario are impacted by Learning Disabilities (LDs), where 35% of students with LDs will drop out of school and 62% of all students with LDs will be unemployed at least a year following graduation. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness and reduce stigma to allow individuals with LDs to get the support they need to reach their potential.

For more information, please visit the [Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario website](#).

October is ADHD Awareness Month


ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder affecting both children and adults. It is described as a “persistent” or ongoing pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that gets in the way of daily life or typical development. Individuals with ADHD may also have difficulties with maintaining attention, executive function (the brain’s ability to begin an activity, organize itself and manage tasks), and working memory. The mission of ADHD Awareness Month is to educate the public about ADHD by disseminating reliable information based on the evidence of science and peer-reviewed research.

For more information, please visit the [ADHD Awareness Month website](#).

IPRC Data - September 2023

September IPRCs	
Learning Centre 1	14
Learning Centre 2	19
Learning Centre 3	17
Learning Centre 4	14
IPRCs Completed	64
IPRC Cumulative since August 2023	
IPRC Cumulative since August 2023	106

Psychological Assessment Data - September 2023



**Psychological Services
Assessment Statistics**

September 2023

Month-By-Month	LC1	LC2	LC3	LC4	Total
Completed	6	18	18	28	70
Cumulative					
Completed	6	18	18	28	70
In Progress	88	104	99	119	410
Waiting*	177	65	191	270	703
Removed	5	7	12	14	38
Total Referrals**	276	194	320	431	1221

**99% of total waitlist are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 1% are gifted assessments*

***98% of total referrals are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 2% are gifted assessments*

