

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)

January 13, 2025

Leadership Report

Louise Sirisko, Associate Director, Learning Innovation and Equitable Outcomes

Nandy Palmer, Executive Superintendent, Special Education Programs and Equitable Outcomes



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

1. 7:00 – 7:05 pm Call to Order
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - Review/Approval of Agenda
 - Declarations of Possible Conflicts of Interest
 - Approval of minutes (December)
2. 7:05 – 7:50 pm
 - Special Education Review (Gillian Parekh, David Cameron)
3. 7:50 – 8:20 pm
 - Exclusion Follow-up (SEAC members)
4. 8:20 – 8:40 pm
 - Town Hall Follow-up (Chair)
5. 8:40 – 8:55 pm
 - Leadership Report
6. 8:55 – 9:00 pm
 - Trustee Report
 - Association/Member Report
 - Adjournment

TDSB Additional Qualification - Special Education Part 1

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB), an OCT-accredited provider of Additional Qualifications (AQ) courses, now offers Special Education Part 1 through the Special Education and Inclusion Department.

This introductory course will help educators develop the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively support students with exceptionalities.

We have a full class of 20 registrants for our first session, which will begin in January!

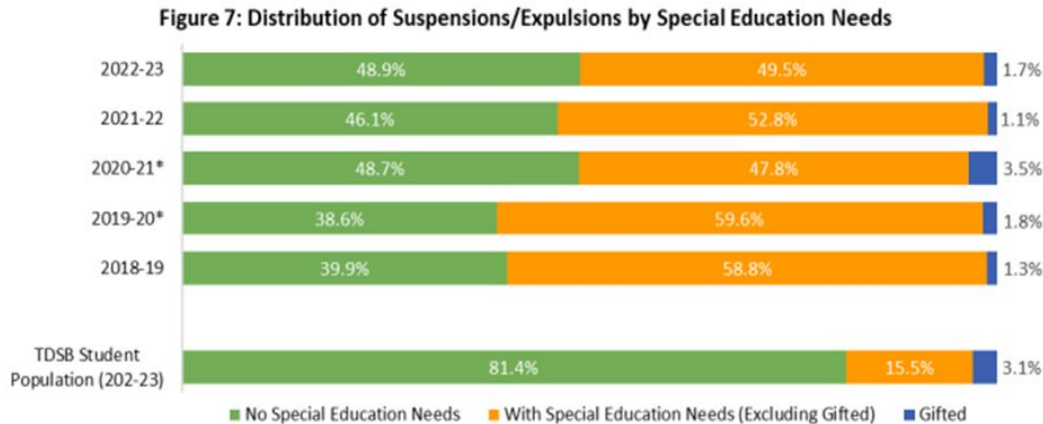
Transitions Website for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

The Ministry of Education has provided funding to school districts to enhance support for students with disabilities and special education needs, their families, and schools with transitions, including beyond 21 transitions.

The TDSB has developed a [transition website for parents/guardians/caregivers](#) with information and resources to assist students, families, and educators in navigating the transition process.

Student Suspensions/Expulsions

The graph below shows the number of suspensions and expulsions of students with special education needs in relation to the total number of TDSB students. In the most recent public reporting (2022-23), the TDSB had 4,907 suspensions and 14 expulsions across the entire district. The suspension rate for the TDSB stands at 1.54%.



In the 2022-2023 school year, students with special education needs (excluding Gifted) made up about 16% of the student population, but accounted for nearly 50% of all suspensions and expulsions. The Caring and Safe Schools Department collaborates with the Special Education and Inclusion Department to address this disparity. The action plan focuses on the intersectionality of data related to student identity, analyzing discipline cases to identify and mitigate biases. Special Education staff are actively involved in the discipline review process to ensure all factors are considered.

Professional Learning at Apple and Google

The Apple sessions were designed to improve the skills of educators in Developmental Disability (DD) and Diagnostic Kindergarten (DK) classrooms by effectively using SEA iPads and apps. In partnership with Apple Canada, this Professional Learning Community (PLC) allows educators to explore various paid apps focused on communication, early literacy, academic skills, and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) support.

The sessions aim to teach educators how to integrate 1:1 devices and assistive technology into classrooms using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. They will cover tools like WeVideo, Mindomo, and Book Creator, and be held at different TDSB locations and Google headquarters.

IPRC Data - December 2024

December IPRCs	
Learning Centre 1	67
Learning Centre 2	45
IPRCs Completed	112
IPRC Cumulative since August 2023	
IPRC Cumulative since August 2023	390

Psychological Services

Assessment Statistics - December 2024



Psychological Services Assessment Statistics December 2024

Month-By-Month	Total
Completed	238
Referrals	1194

Cumulative (since September 2024)	
Completed	695
In Progress	813
Removed	195
Waiting*	1501
Total Referrals**	3204

**62.82% of total waitlist are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 37.18% are gifted assessments*

***76.47% of total referrals are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 23.53% are gifted assessments*

