

## **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**January 13, 2025**

### **Leadership Report**

#### **Learning Innovation and Equitable Outcomes**

Louise Sirisko, Associate Director, Learning Innovation and Equitable Outcomes  
Nandy Palmer, Executive Superintendent, Special Education Programs and Equitable Outcomes

#### **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. Topics include categories of exceptionality in Ontario, teaching strategies for diverse learners, the development of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), inclusive practices, and Ministry of Education resources. 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**

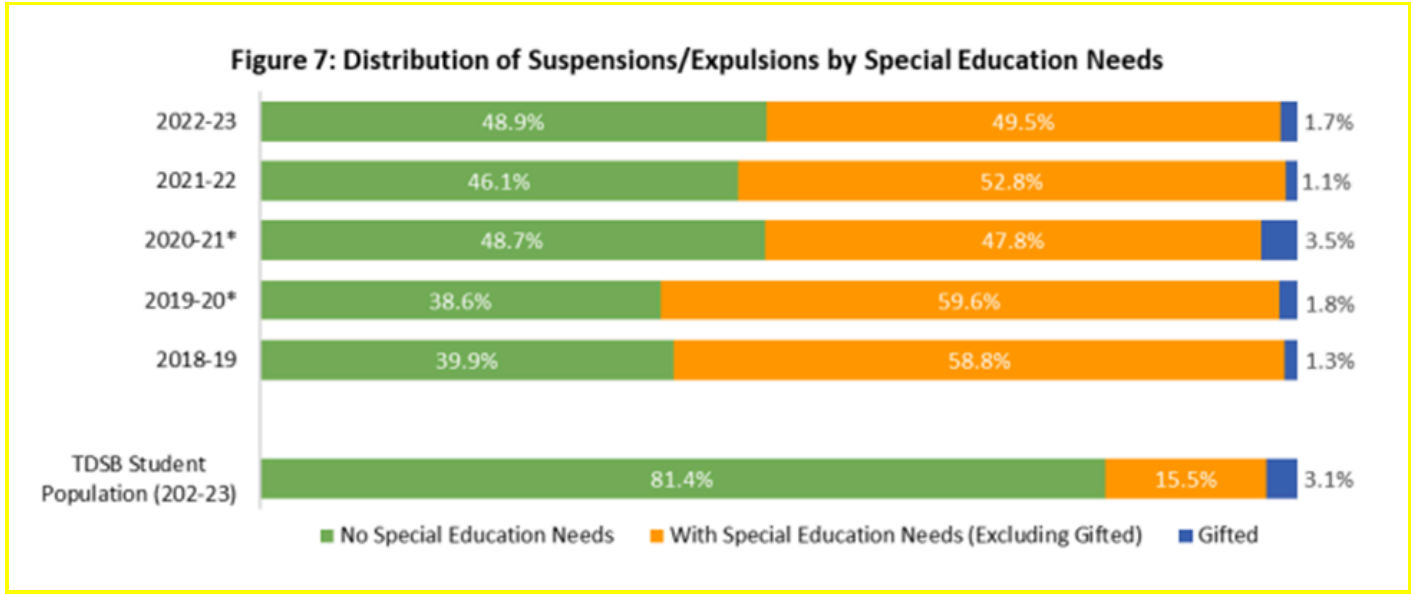
The graph below shows the number of suspensions and expulsions of students with special education needs in relation to the total number of TDSB students. In the most recent public reporting (2022-23), the TDSB had 4,907 suspensions and 14 expulsions across the entire district. The suspension rate for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

While students with special education needs (excluding Gifted) made up approximately 16% of the student population in 2022-2023, in 2022-23 students with special education needs (excluding Gifted) represented about half (~50%) of all suspensions/expulsions. The Caring and Safe Schools Department works closely with staff in the Special Education and Inclusion Department to act on the data which shows that students with special education needs are suspended at a rate much higher than their representation within the larger TDSB student population. To this end, the action plan will continue to focus on the intersectionality of the data related to identity. Special Education staff are included in the analysis of student discipline matters as a further step towards ensuring



that potential biases in the student discipline process are addressed and that all mitigating and other factors are taken into account.

Please refer to the TDSB Caring and Safe Schools report attached to this Leadership Report.



## Professional Learning at Apple and Google

The Apple sessions were developed to enhance the skills of educators in Developmental Disability (DD) and Diagnostic Kindergarten (DK) classrooms by effectively utilizing SEA iPads and their apps. In collaboration with Apple Canada, this Professional Learning Community (PLC) provides an opportunity for educators to explore a variety of paid apps on SEA iPads, focusing on communication, early literacy, academic skills, and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) supports.

The sessions on using 1:1 devices and assistive technology are intended to equip educators with the knowledge and skills to effectively integrate these tools into their classrooms. The goal is to foster collaboration among educators and promote the use of assistive technology and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to engage students. The sessions cover specific programs such as WeVideo, Mindomo, and Book Creator, and will be held at various 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 Assessment Data - 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*