

## **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)**

**December 10, 2024**

### **Leadership Report**

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

### **Virtual Special Education and Inclusion Information Sessions for Parents/Guardians/ Caregivers**

Two virtual sessions for parents/guardians and caregivers were held on the morning of November 27th and the evening of November 28th with a total of 365 parents joining Special Education and Inclusion staff for a session focused on supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). An overview of Special Education and Inclusion supports, programs and services available for students diagnosed with ASD was well received by families. These sessions were recorded and are housed on the [TDSB Special Education website](#) for parents to access at any time.

### **Parent Engagement and Drop In Sessions**

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to offer a number of drop-in and topic-specific sessions for parents/guardians/caregivers for the 2024-2025 school year. Please click on these links to access the flyers which include information on registration: [Drop-In Sessions](#) and [Parent Engagement Sessions](#).

### **Resources for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers**

A number of new resources have been added to the [public Special Education and Inclusion site](#), including a [parent newsletter](#) and three new guides for parents: [Guide to Psychological Service](#), [Guide to Speech-Language Pathology Services](#), and [Guide to Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Services](#). These have been shared with school principals who were asked to share with families. A document is attached to this leadership report with screenshots of some of the features of the site.

### **Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference 2024**

The 2024 Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference: Journey to Joy, Wellness, and Wholeness was held on Saturday, November 16, 2024. The conference provided an opportunity to highlight innovation and high-impact strategies for partnering, collaborating, and nurturing parents' and caregivers' partnerships. Special Education and Inclusion staff, in partnership with other central departments and educational partners, presented a number of workshops. These sessions were recorded and will be uploaded to the [Parents and Caregivers as Partners website](#).



Some of the sessions presented by our teams included:

The Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy (OT/PT) Team presented the following sessions:

- Play: a Foundation for Learning and Engagement
- Strengthening Printing, Fine Motor, and Literacy Skills from the Lens of OT/PT Services
- Talking to our Children about their Bodies and Sexual Health
- The Joy of Building Wellness and Wholeness Through the Be the Change Project

The Assistive Technology (AT)/Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) Team presented sessions focused on:

- WeVideo's tools to enhance student creativity and well-being
- Creating interactive digital books using Book Creator on various devices
- Benefits of technology on learning and well-being for families
- Tiered intervention for Reading in the TDSB

The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Team presented these sessions:

- Using Connection to Support Emotional Regulation in Kids
- Supporting Transition to Grade 1 for Students with ASD
- Generalization of School Skills into The Home Environment

## **Newly Appointed Administrators: Leading Special Education and Inclusion**

Four sessions for newly appointed Vice Principals and Principals were offered in September and November, and two additional sessions will be offered in January to provide an overview of Special Education and Inclusion practices for new administrators. This module provides information on leading special education in schools by providing an overview of Special Education and Inclusion practices, processes, and policies/procedures through critical reflection and dialogue.

Administrators deepen their understanding of the role of school leaders in interrupting and disrupting oppressive practices within Special Education and Inclusion. Participants will strengthen their confidence and competence to lead staff to develop inclusive practices.

## **Professional Learning**

Learning and engagement sessions continue to be made available for both staff and families, providing valuable opportunities to explore inclusive and anti-ableist practices and implement concrete strategies in the classroom and at home. These sessions are designed to support student achievement and well-being. Please click the link to access the [December Learning Sessions](#) being offered.

## **Autism Supports and Services Within the Developmental Disabilities Sector**

On the morning of December 9th and the evening of December 16th, TDSB Social Workers will facilitate the *Developmental Disabilities Virtual Connect* for parents and caregivers of children, youth, and young adults with developmental disabilities and/or complex needs. This event offers

families the opportunity to connect with community agencies and learn about available autism supports and services. Join us to identify the resources best suited to support your child's unique needs. [Developmental Disabilities Virtual Connect - Flyer](#)

### Students on a Modified Day

This topic will be discussed as a separate agenda item. The TDSB began to collect data centrally about students on a modified day in February 2023. The first full school year of data collection was the 2023-2024 school year. The table below shows the number of students on a modified day schedule from September 2023 to June 2024.

Reason for Modified Day	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
ABA	165	183	155	198	213	231	38	238	227	242
Other	176	238	178	220	207	202	218	219	190	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>457</b>

### International Day of Disabled Persons

December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the International Day of Disabled Persons. The International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by [United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3](#).

It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. For further information, please visit the [UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities page](#).



### IPRC Data - November 2024

November IPRCs	
Learning Centre 1	74
Learning Centre 2	72
IPRCs Completed	146
IPRC Cumulative since August 2024	
IPRC Cumulative since August 2024	278

### Psychological Assessment Data - November 2024



### Psychological Services Assessment Statistics November 2024

Month-By-Month	Total
Completed	214
Referrals	742

Cumulative (since September 2024)	
Completed	457
In Progress	690
Removed	172
Waiting*	691
Total Referrals**	2010

*\*84.4% of total waitlist are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 15.6% are gifted assessments*

*\*\*92.7% of total referrals are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 7.3% are gifted assessments*