

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

November 04, 2024

Leadership Report

Learning Innovation and Equitable Outcomes

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

Newsletter for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to offer [monthly newsletters for parents/guardians/caregivers](#) on our public [website](#). The newsletter is designed to support families in navigating the journey of supporting students with special education needs. Each edition will feature valuable resources, tips, and success stories to empower families and their children.

Parent Engagement Session: Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Special Education and Inclusion will be holding two virtual sessions on Wednesday, November 27, 2024 and Thursday, November 28, 2024 for parents/guardians/caregivers to provide information on strategies and supports for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the TDSB. These sessions will be recorded and housed on the TDSB Special Education public website for parents/guardians/caregivers to access at any time. Please see this [flyer](#) for registration information.

Special Education and Inclusion Drop In Sessions 2024-2025 for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to once again offer a number of drop-in sessions for parents, guardians, and caregivers. These sessions aim to support parents/guardians/caregivers by providing information and resources for accessing special education supports and services. Participants can ask questions, share experiences, and connect with other families in a supportive environment. Please see this [flyer](#) for upcoming dates, times and links.

Let's Talk, Read, and Write Parent Engagement Session

Ontario has introduced a new Language Curriculum. Parents/guardians/caregivers of Grade 1 students are invited to attend an upcoming session on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 to learn strategies for supporting your child's development in reading, writing, and oral communication skills. This [flyer](#) has been shared with schools to share with families.



Grade 8 - 9 Transition Information Session for Grade 8 Families

On Tuesday, October 29, Special Education and Inclusion joined the Guidance Department to provide information to families on Grade 8-9 Transition and on the annual IPRC Review that takes place in January for students with disabilities/special education needs.

On Wednesday, October 30, Special Education and Inclusion joined the Central Students' Interest Programs Information Session to provide information to families to support questions on accessing programs.

On Monday November 4, 2024, the Special Education Transitions Navigators will be providing a drop-in session for parents/guardians/caregivers on Supporting the Grade 8 to 9 Transition for Students with Disabilities/Special Education Needs. The [link](#) to the session has been shared with school principals to share with families.

An Introduction to Lead Community Agencies Within the Developmental Disabilities Sector

As part of the Developmental Disabilities Virtual Connect for parents/guardians/caregivers of children, youth and young adults with developmental disabilities and/or complex needs, parents are invited to come meet with lead community agencies (Surrey Place, Community Living Toronto, Holland Bloorview, Geneva Centre) and learn about their programs and identify ways to best support the needs of their children. Parents can connect with other TDSB parents of children, youth and young adults with developmental disabilities and/or complex needs. Repeat sessions will be offered on Monday, November 18th, 2024 from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and on Monday, November 25th, 2024 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. [CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING](#) or use the link below. <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/94015815609?pwd=zvXKxODRuh6GCza1hVFINDGaxj1UQ.1>
Meeting ID: 940 1581 5609

Passcode: 445164

Phone In: +16475580588 Or +16473744685 – Canada

[DOWNLOAD ZOOM](#)

Fall/Winter sessions of the ASD After School Leisure Program

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to announce the upcoming Fall/Winter sessions of the ASD After School Leisure Program, available both in-person and virtually, running from November 26, 2024 to February 27, 2025. The program is available to students in Grades 4-10 who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This program provides an opportunity for students to develop, build and enhance their social communication skills through either weekly in-person or weekly virtual sessions. An [information letter](#) which includes the registration link was shared with schools to share with parents. Registration will remain open until Friday, November 15, 2024.

Special Education Fall and Winter Professional Activity (PA) Day Sessions



Sessions were provided to staff to support and deepen their understanding of the intersection of anti-ableism, anti-oppression and anti-racism, and discuss ways in which students can effectively be integrated and supported in school.

PA Day Professional Learning for Support Staff - October 11, 2024

Staff were offered sessions to develop skills in assisting students with special education needs.

Topics included:

- ABCs of ABA: Using Basic ABA Strategies in the Classroom
- Positive Reinforcement
- Structuring Unstructured Time
- Behaviour Prevention and De-escalation
- Effective Strategies for Supporting Students with Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) Devices

PA Day Professional Learning for Support Staff - November 15 and 29, 2024

Staff will be offered sessions to support their learning around the following:

- Tier 1 Strategies in the Kindergarten Classroom
- Supporting and Understanding Students with ASD in Intermediate and High School Settings
- Inclusive Self-Regulation & Wellbeing for Students with Autism
- De-escalation Strategies

Professional Development on Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

Professional development continues throughout the year to support superintendents and school-based staff with developing and implementing effective IEPs that are personalized and precise to a student's specific strengths and areas for growth. In addition, Special Education and Inclusion Department staff will continue to work with school-based staff to look at IEPs with intentionality in alignment with the goals of the K-1 IEP Strategy and the Grades 2- 12 IEP Review. Professional learning sessions focused on building teacher and administrator capacity in IEP writing are scheduled for December 11 2024, January 29, 2025 and January 30, 2025.

EQAO Data

Information on EQAO results (2023-2024 school year) for students with special education needs is attached to this report. The data shows:

1. exemptions,
2. participation rates, and
3. achievement levels.

IPRC Data - October 2024

October IPRCs

Learning Centre 1	49
Learning Centre 2	54
IPRC Cumulative since August 2024	
IPRC Cumulative since August 2023	132

Psychological Assessment Data



Psychological Services Assessment Statistics October 2024

Month-By-Month	LC1 (West)	LC2 (East)	Total
Completed	101	60	161
Total Referrals	145	122	267
Cumulative (since September 2024)			
Completed	135	108	243
In Progress	275	292	567
Waiting*	278	179	457
Removed	74	47	121
Total Referrals**	762	626	1388

* >98% of total waitlist are comprehensive/DK assessments, and <2% are gifted assessments

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