

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

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- International Day of Sign Language
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- Updates to UDL Guidelines

CHECK IT OUT!

- [All Are Welcome – Read aloud kids book in full screen and with music!](#)
- [What is UDL? Universal Design for Learning Explained \(3 minutes\)](#)
- [Inclusive education video series: Positive behaviour approach](#)
- [The 5-4-3-2-1 Method: A Grounding Exercise to Manage Anxiety](#)
- [Introduction to 5-4-3-2-1 and Skill Practice](#)
- [Circle Of Control Activity For Kids - Good Mental Health And Stress Management](#)

The Ontario Autism Program (OAP) is a government-funded service that provides support to families of children and youth with Autism. Any child or youth under 18 with a written diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can register. Families can choose from different service options, including the Entry to School (ETS) program.

More details are available on the [ACCESS OAP](#) website.

IMPORTANT DATES;

KEY DATES 2024-2025

ELEMENTARY PD DAYS:

September 27, 2024: Professional Development
 October 11, 2024: Professional Development
 November 15, 2024: Parent-Teacher Conferences
 November 29, 2024: Professional Development
 January 17, 2025: Professional Development
 February 14, 2025: Parent-Teacher Conferences
 June 6, 2025: Professional Development

SECONDARY PD DAYS:

October 11, 2024 – Professional Development
 November 15, 2024 - Professional Development
 November 29, 2024 - Professional Development
 January 30, 2025 - Professional Development
 February 14, 2025 - Professional Development
 June 26, 2025 - Professional Development
 June 27, 2025 - Professional Development

SCHOOL YEAR HOLIDAYS (as per Ministry of Education)

Labour Day: September 2, 2024
 Thanksgiving: October 14, 2024
 Winter Break: December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025
 Family Day: February 17, 2025
 Mid-Winter Break: March 10-14, 2025
 Good Friday: April 18, 2025
 Easter Monday: April 21, 2025
 Victoria Day: May 19, 2025

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Resources:

[Special Education Parent Guides](#)

Resources

- [Mental Health at School](#) - A mental health directory of local agencies:
- [The Access Point](#) - TO Mental Health & Addictions Access Point (16+) A resource hub of caseworkers to connect you to one of their 54+ (free) agencies.
- [MentalHealth](#) - Mental Health Directory for counselling, crisis centres, and mental health facilities by area.
- [Geneva Centre for Autism](#) - Information on Programs and Services
- [Community Networks of Specialized Care](#) - Community Networks of Specialized Care is a Cross-sectoral specialized service system that supports people with a developmental disability and mental health and/or behavioural needs
- [Ontario Autism Program](#) - Ministry of Health information on creating AccessOAP account, Entry to school programs, Urgent response services, Foundational family services & Caregiver-mediated early years programs
- [Mental Health Services for Children and Youth](#) - Ministry of Health call a helpline, Tele-Mental Health Service, Secure treatment
- [Indigenous children and youth programs](#) - Ministry of Health Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy programs, Family Well-Being program, Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy
- [TDSB Urban Indigenous Education Centre](#) - Information for families (programs, community engagement, resources, events and news)
- [CAMH](#) - The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- [TDSB Innovation: Gender and Sexual Diversity](#) - Social work support for families and students
- [CEBSA Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement](#)

Pathways to Care for Mental Health Virtual Office Hours

Parent Concern Protocol

Classroom/ Subject Teacher

STEP ONE If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher.

School Administrator(s)

STEP TWO If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

School Superintendents

STEP THREE Superintendents are responsible for Families of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered at the school level.

Trustees

STEP FOUR Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with concerns about your community, as well as address questions related to the Board and its operations.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The [Ontario Education Act Regulation 464/97](#) outlines the role of SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee). SEAC advises the TDSB on special education matters and makes recommendations on how to improve special education programs and services for exceptional students. The TDSB values SEAC's input and considers its recommendations to better support students with disabilities and special needs.

For more information, visit the [TDSB SEAC page](#).

Resources



September is FASD Awareness Month

The Government of Canada officially recognized September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month. This month is devoted to raising awareness of FASD to improve prevention, diagnosis and support for individuals with FASD. Historically, research and discussion about FASD has focused on challenges. While this discussion is necessary, it is also important to recognize people's unique talents,

abilities and interests. When we don't explore the success of people with FASD, and celebrate their contributions, we fail to recognize their immense potential.

The theme for this year's FASD awareness month is *Everyone Plays a Part*.

For more information on how you can get involved, please visit: [CanFASD 2024](#)

International Day of Sign Languages: September 23, 2024

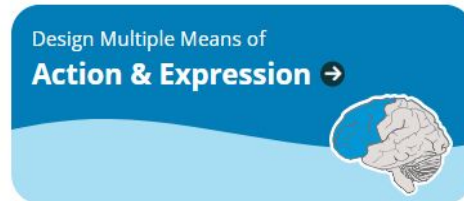
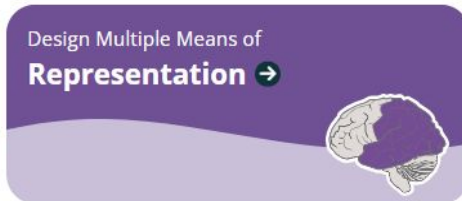
International Week of Deaf People: September 23 to September 29,

2024 International Week of the Deaf (IWD) 2024 runs from September 23rd to 29th. The World Federation of the Deaf has declared this year as "Sign Up for Sign Language Rights". Please visit their [website](#) for more information on daily themes.

September 23rd is International Day of Sign Language and a key part of IWD. There are several events being held in Toronto on this day including a flag raising ceremony at City Hall and a Deaf Culture & Arts display in the Rotunda. In addition, look for the [CN Tower](#) to be lit up in blue in honour of both International Week of the Deaf and International Day of Sign Languages.

Universal Design for Learning Guidelines **NEW!**

The goal of UDL is **learner agency** that is purposeful & reflective, resourceful & authentic, strategic & action-oriented.



This new update to the [Universal Design for Learning Guidelines](#), released in July 2024, builds upon previous iterations and emphasizes addressing barriers rooted in biases and systems of exclusion. This expanded version intentionally includes those practitioners and scholars whose experiences and perspective may not have been recognized in previous versions. This update aims to fulfill the promise of the Guidelines as a resource to guide the design of learning environments and experiences that reduce barriers and more fully honor and value every learner.

For a side-by-side comparison of what changed from Guidelines version 2.2 to Guidelines version 3.0, please explore: "[Changes from Guidelines 2.2 to Guidelines 3.0](#)"