

Special Education – Qs&As

Will Special Education programs continue?

Yes, Special Education programs will continue to be offered. The Enhancing Equity Task Force specifically recommends the review of Special Education Learning programs with an emphasis on:

- Placement and inclusion of students with special education learning needs;
- Retaining congregated sites while exploring options to include Special Education at a home school;
- Professional development for staff;
- Providing a process and clear information for collaborative decision-making about student needs, as well as a process to appeal and revise decisions;
- Identifying physical and attitudinal barriers;
- Ensuring that all families, including those new to Canada and those whose first language is not English, can successfully navigate the Special Education system with confidence.

The report does not recommend phasing out or closing congregated Special Education sites or Special Education programs, which includes Gifted and Learning Disability (LD). Director Malloy confirmed that dismantling of congregated sites would not be included in staff recommendations. It is, however, important to review Special Education programs and services to assess the impact of these supports on students' achievement and well-being.

Will Gifted and LD programs continue?

Yes, Gifted and LD Special Education classes will continue in TDSB schools.

What happens when a student goes to an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) for consideration of Giftedness?

An IPRC meeting will be held. Parents/guardians, the student's teacher, school administrator and, if appropriate, the student, will be at the meeting. The IPRC will review all information and make a decision regarding exceptionality and placement. As with all IPRCs, the committee will first consider how the needs of the student can be met in a regular class. The parent/guardian will be asked their preference regarding placement - regular class or Special Education class. Choice will continue.

How are Gifted students in the regular classroom supported?

Gifted students in the regular classroom would have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that would outline their unique learning needs and detail the enrichment program that would best support them.

What are the next steps in determining what happens with Special Education programming?

At the December 13 Board meeting, trustees voted to have TDSB senior staff conduct a full review of the recommendations of the Enhancing Equity Task Force. Following a closer examination of the recommendations, on February 7, trustees approved proposed directions to enhance our support for each and every student in the TDSB. These directions do not include closing congregated classes. To read the full report, the Director's Response to the Enhancing Equity Task Force, [click here](#).