

Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and Church.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 16, 2023

MEETING DATE:	June 16, 2023
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
NEXT MEETING:	Friday, September 22, 2023 –CEC Board Room - Meeting 1:30 PM

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Willett	Voting Member - FIREFLY Representative - Chair
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane VanderZande	Voting Member - Member at Large, Vice Chair
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dianne Griffiths	Voting Member - Member at Large
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Voting Member - Member at Large
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erica Murray	Voting Member - KACL Representative
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shirley Jette	Voting Member - Harmony Centre for Community Living Red Lake
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marie Lundin	Voting Member – Trustee Representative
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kurtz	Director of Education
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Batters	Special Education Coordinator
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair, Board of Trustees
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. Opening Prayer: Nicole Kurtz

2. Roll Call: Regrets Teresa Gallik

**3. School Update: St. Thomas Aquinas High School –Kirsten Fair, Sommer Kennedy, Ashley Shouldice
Regrets: Danielle Grosset – [Click here](#) to see the video presentation.**

**4. Professional Development: Early Years Literacy Presentation - Leanne Chisholm, Marnie Buffett,
and Andrea Batters - Attached**

5. Approval of May 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Approved: Dianne Griffiths

Seconded: Diane VanderZande

6. Correspondence:

Bruce – Grey Catholic District School Board: Sip Claim Funding – Attached

Funding Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board: Sip Claim Funding- Attached

Durham Catholic District School Board: Sip Claim Funding – Attached

Durham Catholic District School Board: Impact of Covid and extending time students with differing abilities to remain or continue in Secondary School beyond year 7 and beyond age 21. - Attached

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June 16, 2023

Claudine Munroe, Director, Special Education / Success for All Branches: Reply to KCDSB Sip Funding letter sent December 21, 2022. – Attached

All correspondence was reviewed and will be kept on file.

7. New Business: 2023-2024 SEAC Tentative Meeting Dates: Attached

Nicole Kurtz asked the committee regarding the in-school meetings if it would be best to stay in the Board Room and have the school join virtually to do their presentation unless they are doing a tour. The in-school meetings experience technical issues, and we want to be respectful of everyone's time.

Anne Sweeney asked if we should consult with the principals.

Diane VanderZande commented the committee started going to the schools so the staff would get to know the SEAC Committee and what the committee does. The SEAC committee would see what is happening in the different schools and the challenges and successes of the staff.

Nicole Kurtz told the committee she will consult with the principals for their feedback before any decisions are made.

8. Business arising from the last meeting: Nil

9. Agency Reports:

- **FIREFLY – Joel Willett:** Nothing to Report
- **KACL – Erica Murray:**
 - KACL will be running a Circles of Security course in the fall. More information to come. The KACL Youth Employment Program will run programming during the summer for families within KACL's Children's Services to teach basic employment skills. This will take place in two sessions running for three days each with a time of 2 hours per day; resulting in 6 hours of employment basics being introduced to the group.
- **Harmony Center for Community Living – Shirley Jette:** Nothing to Report

Other Reports from Members-at-Large:

- **Dianne Griffiths:** Nothing to Report
- **Anne Sweeney:** Nothing to Report
- **Diane VanderZande:** Nothing to Report

10. Trustee Report: Marie Lundin:

- **Marie Lundin reported on the May 16, 2023 Board Meeting.** [Click here](#) to access the Minutes.

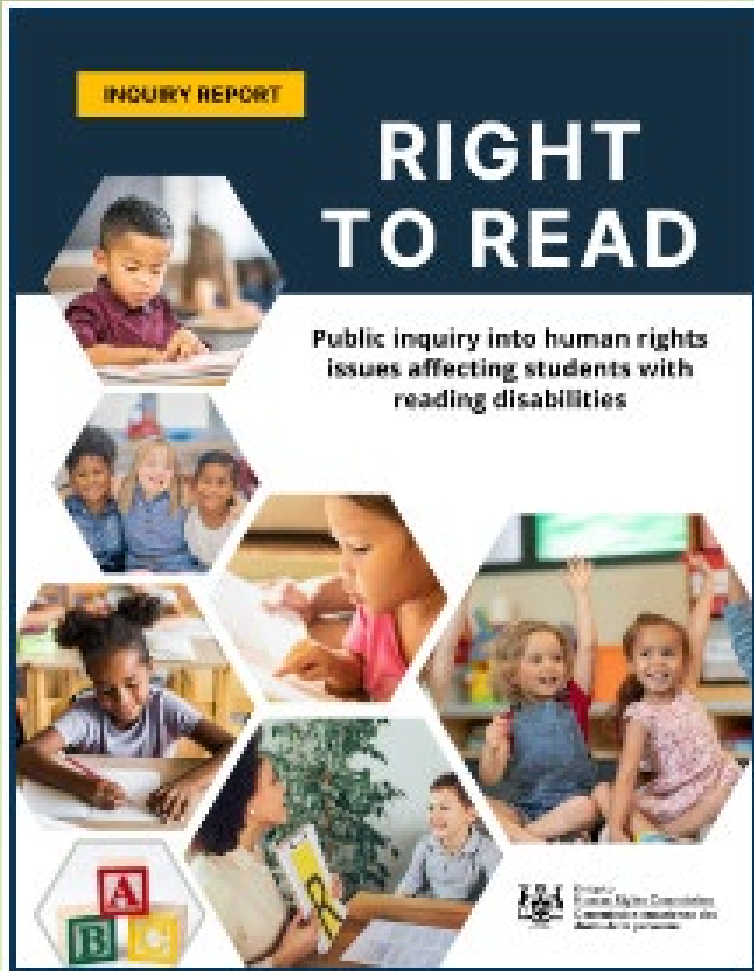
11. Coordinator Report: Andrea Batters: Attached

12. Next Meetings: Friday, September 22, 2023



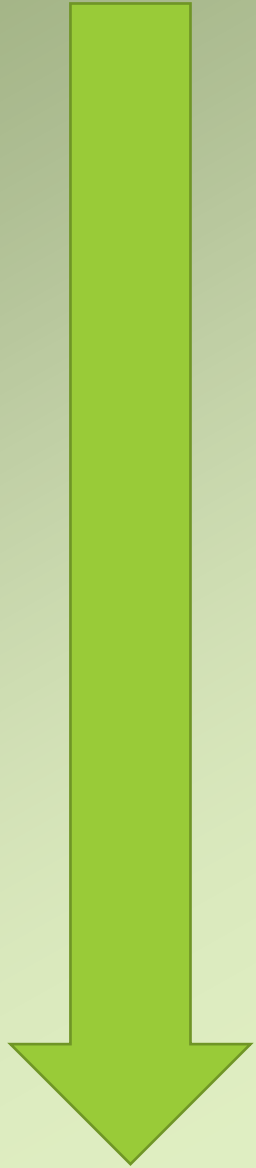
Early Literacy Support Team Update

OHRC Inquiry Into Right To Read



"Nearly ALL students can learn to read words proficiently with science-based instruction in foundational reading skills."

From Balanced to Structured Literacy



Balanced Literacy

- readers encouraged to 'predict' unknown words by using context cues such as pictures, the preceding sentence, and initial/ final letters to guess what the word might be (not processing the letter/ sound relationships)
- Does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it make sense?
- based on opinion or experience and qualitative research based on anecdotal observation/ interviews

Structured Literacy

- a focus on evidence-based 'essential' skills that ALL readers must acquire
- Focuses on connecting speech sounds to print and to the meaning of words (THE READING PATHWAY)
- A direct and systematic approach that progresses from easier to harder skills and is responsive to student needs
- based on decades of evidence-based, scientific research

Early and Ongoing Assessment

All boards must have measures in place for **Early and Ongoing assessment**

Parents, Classroom Teachers and the School Team play a vital role in the Early and Ongoing Assessment process

Language Development is a major component of early identification of learning needs



Early and Ongoing Assessment



Learners requiring further assessment, learning support, and progress monitoring may be identified

Focused Instruction during the Early Years yields the **greatest positive impact on learning outcomes**

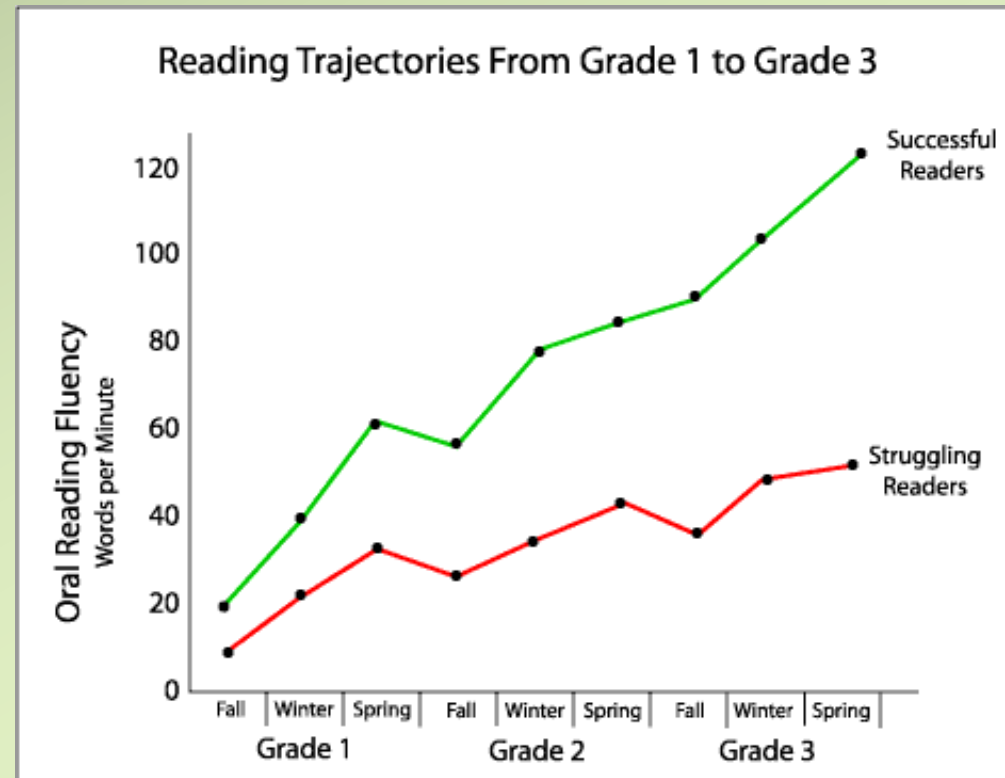
Range of Assessment Measures

Assessment measures may include a range of the following

- Whole-class, universal screeners,
- Classroom-based assessments, and
- Individually-administered, standardized assessments

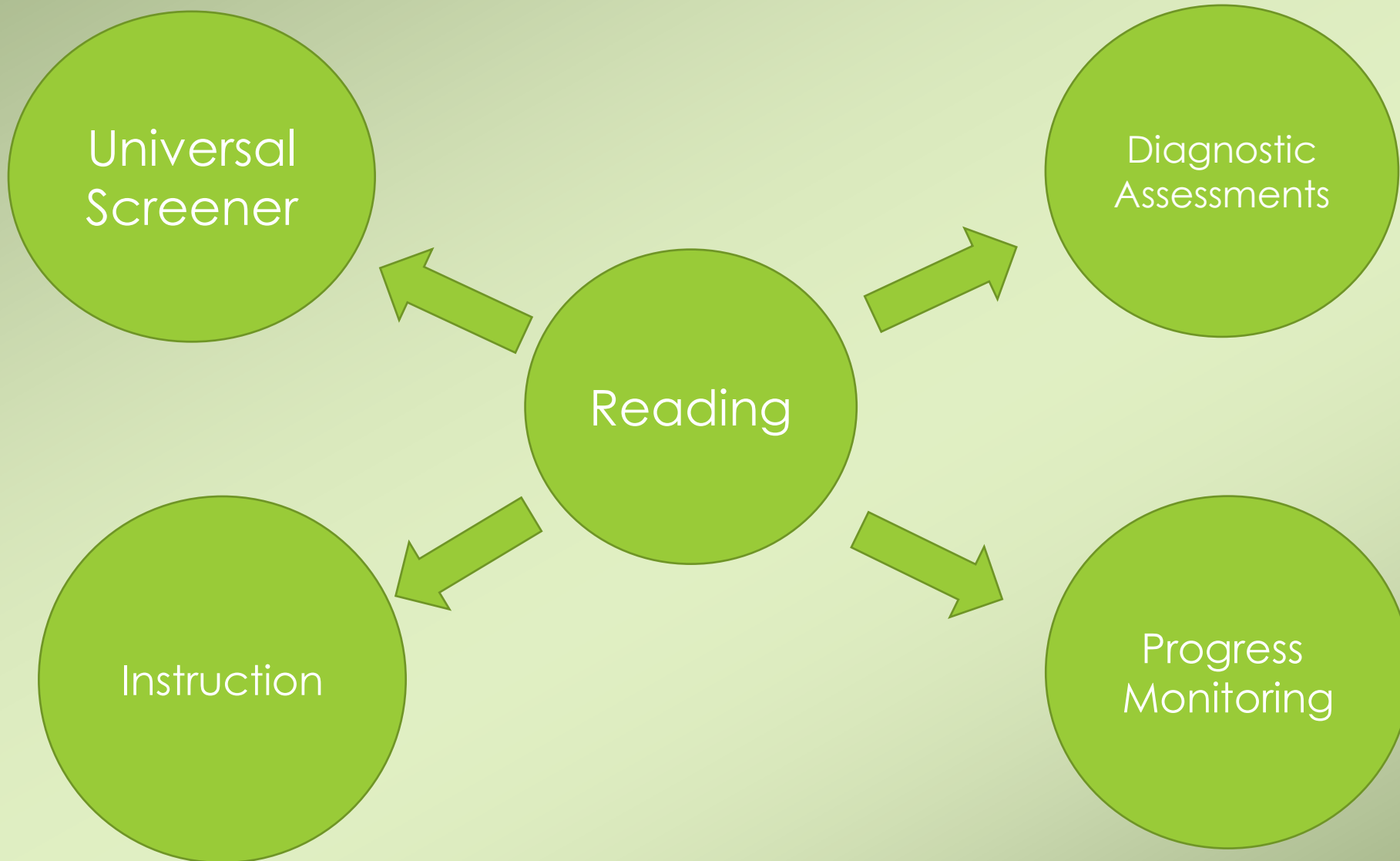


Early Identification and Intervention is Important



Big Ideas in Beginning Reading, University of Oregon

How Can We Support Reading Development?





Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board

799 16th Avenue, Hanover, Ontario N4N 3A1

519-364-5820

www.bgcdsb.org

1-877-471-8121

RECEIVED

APR 12 2023

Kenora Catholic District
School Board

March 22, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
15th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce:

Re: Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board's (BGCDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), regarding funding of the Special Incidence Portion (SIP).

We would like to remind you that, in the spring of 2018, the previous government announced an increase to the SIP claim funding of \$11,016.00, bringing that funding amount up to \$38,016.00 per student from the previous funding amount of \$27,000.00. On August 24, 2018, after school board budgets were prepared and approved, the Ministry announced that the previously-announced increase would be clawed back. Currently the funding received from the Ministry is \$28,803.00, bringing the net increase to \$1,803.00 per student.

SEACs across the province were dismayed by the Ministry of Education's decision to claw back that increase, given that the true costs of supporting a student with a SIP claim are significantly higher than the allocated amount. For example, the average cost, including salary and benefits, for an Educational Assistant is \$50,189. A student who requires 2 plus Educational Assistants to support their learning needs would be at a cost of \$100,378 plus. The Ministry of Education's SIP amount covers approximately 28.7 percent of the true cost to support a student with significant learning needs. The BGCDSB covers the remaining 71.3 percent of the cost from other Special Education and operational grants.

In 2017, the Auditor General highlighted that the Ministry of Education's "funding formula uses out-of-date benchmarks and is due for a comprehensive external review." An additional concern for our board is the half/full day allocation of the amount. Given that it already does not come close to covering the cost for students who require these intense supports, we believe a more fair approach is to prorate the amount for a student who is not accessing these supports for a full/half day. Lastly, due to the vast geographical area of our board, large transportation costs are often incurred to transport students with a SIP claim to and from school since regular bussing is not often an option.

Let Your Light Shine

Our SEAC is extremely concerned about the direction funding for special education is taking. Inadequate funding of Special Education puts our most vulnerable children at risk by cutting the services that they need to be successful. Our entire system is strained when school boards are required to take revenues from other areas to meet its statutory commitment to children accessing Special Education services. We urge the Minister to evaluate the true costs associated with SIP claims to support our students and increase funding accordingly. We further request, once again, that the Special Education funding model be reviewed and changed to accurately reflect the increasing and more complex needs of students with special needs.

On behalf of the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee, I thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Linda Strader

Linda Strader, Trustee
Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board

cc: Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees
Rick Byers - MPP Bruce Grey Owen Sound
Lisa Thompson - MPP Huron Bruce



March 10, 2023

Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
15th Floor, 438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce:

Re: Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Claim Funding

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to request your consideration of an increase in the maximum per pupil SIP claim amount. Currently, the maximum per pupil funding received from the Ministry of Education is \$28,803.00, which, while very appreciated, amounts to approximately one quarter of the Education Worker salary and benefits costs to support our students with the highest needs. The remaining cost is funded through both the Special Education enveloped grants, as well as through the GSNs.

At KPRDSB, we strive to be very efficient with our resources, yet we continue to spend beyond the Special Education funding envelope by 6.7% in order to ensure that students' programming needs are met. Expenses related to supporting students continue to outpace the revenue provided, which includes the very labour-intensive SIP claims. We do not want to reduce services which some students need to be successful at school; therefore, our entire school system is put under strain because we are required to allocate revenues from other grants to meet our moral and legal obligations to students with special education needs.

We urge you and your team, Minister Lecce, to review the data which is being used to determine Special Education grants in order to assess the true costs of supporting students with special needs. Specifically, we are requesting that the maximum amount of SIP claim funding per pupil be increased to accurately reflect the costs of ensuring these students have full access to education.

We look forward to your response, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Lloyd, SEAC Chairperson
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

Trustees:

Steve Russell
(Chairperson)

Jaine Klassen Jenings
(Vice-chairperson)

Cathy Abraham
Paul Brown
Terry Brown
Sean Conway
Cyndi Dickson
Kathleen Flynn
Rose Kitney
Angela Lloyd
Diane Lloyd

Maria Mahfuz
Kelly Mitchell
(Student Trustees)

Rita Russo
Director of Education

EDUCATION CENTRE
1994 Fisher Drive
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 6X6

(705) 742-9773
1 (877) 741-4577
Fax: (705) 742-7801

Website: www.kprschools.ca

Honourable Stephen Lecce
March 10, 2023
Page 2

Cc: Ontario Public School Boards
Chairs of all Ontario Special Advisory Committees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Todd J. McCarthy, MPP Durham
Hon. David Piccini, MPP Northumberland - Peterborough South
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton – Kawartha Lakes - Brock
Dave Smith, MPP Peterborough Kawartha
Hon. Todd Smith, MPP Bay of Quinte



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

March 21, 2023

Honorable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2
minister.edu@ontario.ca

Honorable Stephen Lecce,

Re: Special Incident Portion Claim (SIP)

On behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), we are writing in support of York Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee's recent letter regarding Special Incident Portion Claim Funding.

In the spring of 2018, the previous government announced an increase to the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claim funding of \$11,016.00, increasing the funding amount up to \$38,016.00 per student from the previous funding amount of \$27,000.00. On August 24, 2018, after school board budgets were prepared and approved, the Ministry announced that the increase would be clawed back to \$28,803.00, bringing the net increase to \$1,518.00 per student.

SEACs across the province were dismayed by the Ministry of Education decision to claw back that increase given that the true cost of supporting a student with a SIP claim are significantly higher than that amount. For example, the average cost, including salary and benefits, for an Educational Assistant is \$60,770. A student who requires 2 plus Educational Assistants to support their learning needs would be a cost of \$115,768.00 plus. The Ministry of Education's SIP amount covers approximately 24.6% of the cost to support a student with significant learning needs. The DCDSB covers the remaining 75.4% of the cost from our Special Education and operational grants.

The normalized budget gap at the DCDSB between Special Education revenues and expenditures for the current years is \$969,870. or 2.8% .Some of the money DCDSB used to fund this gap is the Local Priorities funding (Support for Student Funding), which is not guaranteed to be received annually from the Ministry.

DCDSB SEAC is expressing our concerns that the funding the Ministry of Education provides for SIP is inadequate. The claw back of the SIP increase announced on August 24, 2018, along with the reallocation to the Special Education Per Pupil amount resulted in a net decrease in funding, further increasing the DCDSB deficit. As the Auditor General highlighted in 2018, the Ministry of Education's "funding formula uses

out-of-date benchmarks and is due for a comprehensive external review." DCDSB SEAC is extremely concerned by the direction funding for special education is taking, leaving our most vulnerable children further at risk. Inadequate funding of Special Education at the DCDSB puts our most vulnerable children at risk by cutting the services that they need to be successful. Our entire system is strained when the DCDSB takes revenues from other areas to meet its statutory commitment to children accessing Special Education services.

We request the Minister to evaluate the true costs associated with SIP claims to support our students and increase funding accordingly. We further request, that the Special Education funding model be reviewed and changed to accurately reflect the increasing and more complex needs of students with special needs.

We look forward to your response,



Valerie Adamo
Special Education Advisory Committee Chair
Durham Catholic DSB

cc: All Ontario Special Education Advisory Committee Chairs



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

April 11, 2023

Honorable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2
minister.edu@ontario.ca

Honorable Stephen Lecce,

On behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), we are writing in support of Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee's recent letter regarding the impact the last 3 years of this Covid pandemic has had on the education of the students we represent.

We are writing to request that the Ministry of Education consider providing the option to extend the time students with differing abilities have to remain or continue in Secondary School beyond year 7 and beyond age 21.

We too, are very concerned, but despite the considerable impact this pandemic has had on student learning and well-being, we look forward to hearing how your Ministry plans to address the residual gaps currently faced by diverse learners.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Adamo'.

Valerie Adamo
Special Education Advisory Committee Chair
Durham Catholic DSB

cc: All Ontario Special Education Advisory Committee Chairs

From: Special Education (EDU) <SpecialEducation@ontario.ca>
Sent: May 15, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Willett, Joel <jwillett@fireflynw.ca>; tgallik@kcdsb.on.ca
Subject: EXTERNAL Special Incident Portion (SIP) funding

Ms. Teresa Galik
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Kenora Catholic District School Board
1292 Heenan Place, Kenora, ON, P9N 2Y8

tgallik@kcdsb.on.ca

Mr. Joel Willett
SEAC Chair
Kenora Catholic District School Board
1292 Heenan Place, Kenora, ON, P9N 2Y8

jwillett@fireflynw.ca

Dear Ms. Galik and Mr. Willett,

Thank you for your letter regarding Special Incident Portion (SIP) funding. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The government is supporting each and every school board in the province to ensure our students, including students with special education needs, and educators have the resources available for a successful year.

Special Education Grant (SEG) funding is projected to increase to over \$3.25 billion for the 2022-23 school year. The highest amount ever provided in Special Education Grant (SEG) funding, this represents an increase of approximately \$93 million, or 2.9 per cent, over 2021-22 Special Education Grant (SEG) funding. The maximum SIP funding amount per eligible claim has incrementally increased year over year. This, as you have pointed out, has culminated to with a maximum of \$28,803 per SIP claim for the current school year, with an overall projected total SIP funding amount of \$142 million for 2022-23.

In addition to Special Education Grant (SEG) funding, school boards can use other Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF) funding to meet their responsibility to support students with special education needs.

We continue to provide funding outside of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) through Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF) for a variety of time-limited, high-impact initiatives that directly support students in the classroom. In 2022-23, we are providing school boards with \$40.8 million in [Priorities and Partnerships Funding \(PPF\)](#) to

support programs that will benefit students with special education needs, and will also support student potential in Ontario; and we are providing an additional \$5.85 million in special education Third-Party investments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for your commitment to the needs of students. I would also like to thank you for reaching out to the Ministry of Education, and I trust the above information will be useful to you.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Claudine Munroe
Director
Special Education / Success for All Branch

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Tentative Dates for 2023-2024

Please be advised that SEAC meets once a month on a Friday unless otherwise noted. The meetings begin at 1:30 PM.

Month	Dates	
September	Friday, September 22, 2023	CEC Board Room or Teams
October	Friday, October 20, 2023	CEC Board Room or Teams
November	Friday, November 17, 2023	CEC Board Room or Teams
December	Friday, December 8, 2023	CEC Board Room or Teams
January	Friday, January 12, 2024	Ecole Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys School and Teams
February	Friday, February 16, 2024	St. Louis School or Teams
March	Friday, March 22, 2024	St. John Paul II School or Teams
April	Friday, April 12, 2024	St. Thomas Aquinas High School or Teams
May	Tuesday, May 21, 2024	St. John School / CEC Board Room / Teams
June	Friday, June 14, 2024	CEC Board Room or Teams



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

SUBJECT:	Special Education Coordinator's Report
DATE:	Friday, June 16, 2023
PREPARED FOR:	Special Education Advisory Committee
AGENDA AREA:	Public Session
PREPARED BY:	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

Professional Development Day - June 12, 2023

Learning during the PD Day for Educational Assistants was led by Dr. Anthony Cammilleri, a Board Certified and Licensed Behaviour Analyst and Special Education Administrator. Dr. Cammilleri is a Senior Consultant and Director of Education at First Things First (FTF) Behavioral Consulting. The session for EAs focused on providing an overview of the Universal Protocol (UP) and Skill-Based Treatment (SBT) framework for students who exhibit problem behaviour. There were also several opportunities for educators to ask questions to gain helpful tips for program support and skill-based learning goal tracking, and to learn from Dr. Cammilleri's compassionate, value-based examples of strategies to promote positive student-educator relationships.

On Tuesday, June 13, Dr. Cammilleri met with KCDSB principals to provide school leaders with a similar overview of the UP and SBT practices that he shared with the EA group, tailored to the perspective of school administrators (e.g. considerations for shared policy development, staff training, instructional design, data collection, etc.).

Dr. Cammilleri was also able to take a tour St. John Paul II school to meet educators who have already begun implementing UP and Today's ABA SBT practices.

Plans are also underway for the **2023-2024 KCDSB Professional Activity (PA or 'PD') days** with the school year beginning with **two PA days (Aug 28 & 29)** that focus on Ministry and board-determined topics that prepare staff to support students for a successful return to school and learning.