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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

March 25, 2022

MEETING DATE:	March 25, 2022
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Special Education Advisory Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	1:30 PM –2:37 PM
NEXT MEETING:	April 29, 2022

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.		Norine Schram	Voting Member - Member at Large, Chair
2.	\boxtimes	Diane VanderZande	Voting Member - Member at Large, Vice Chair
3.	\boxtimes	Dianne Griffiths	Voting Member - Member at Large
4.		Tom Fawcett	Voting Member - Member at Large
5.		KACL to Appoint Member	Voting Member - KACL Representative
6.	\boxtimes	Joel Willett	Voting Member - FIREFLY Representative
7.	\boxtimes	Anne Sweeney	Voting Member- Trustee Representative
8.		Paul White	Director of Education
9.	\boxtimes	Nicole Kurtz	Superintendent of Instructional Services
10.		Andrea Batters	Special Education Coordinator
11.	\boxtimes	Teresa Gallik	Chair, Board of Trustees
12.	\boxtimes	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

- 1. Opening Prayer
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. St. John Paul II School Presentation: Stacey Goodridge, Anissa Fraser, Tammy Bush Attached 3
- 4. Approval of February 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes Approved – Joel Willett

Seconded - Diane VanderZande

5. Correspondence:

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Letter – February 11, 2022 – Review and File 19
Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board – February 15, 2022 – Review and File 21
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board – February 18, 2022 – Review and File 22

- 6. New Business:
 - 2022-2023 Approved School Year Calendar N Kurtz Attached 25
 - Special Education Placement N Kurtz
 We had to add a special education class to St. John Paul II School to accommodate a transferring student who is medically fragile and would require very intensive support.
 We

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 25, 2022

would need to provide the special placement for the student to attend school safely and successfully. We set up the class and hired the necessary staff to support the student. We recently were advised the student would not be remaining as a student with our board. Our OnSIS reports will reflect that we had placement in place for two weeks for this student. Nicole Kurtz wanted to note to the SEAC committee how proud she was of the team at St. John Paul II School for their positive response and hard work to make this happen for this student.

- 7. Professional Development: Alison Smith, Kenora Catholic District School Board's Superintendent of Business Services Attached 26
- 8. Business arising from last meeting:
 - Follow up regarding Letter received from Durham District School Board.
 The SEAC committee approved the letter, and it will be sent to Paul White, Director of Education, for approval.
- 9. Agency Reports
 - FIREFLY Joel Willett No Update for this month.
 - KACL No Representative appointed to replace Aimee Foucher
 - Other Reports from Members-at-Large
 - Tom Fawcett:

Tom Fawcett informed the SEAC committee that he will be resigning from the SEAC committee, and that this will be the last meeting he will be attending.

Norine Schram wished Tom all the best and thanked him for his many years of dedicated support to the SEAC committee.

Teresa Gallik echoed Norine's best wishes and gratitude.

Nicole Kurtz thanked Tom for his many years of service and wished him the best.

- Dianne Griffiths: Nothing to report.
- Diane VanderZande: Nothing to report.
- Norine Schram: Nothing to report.
- 10. Trustee Report Teresa Gallik reported on the Board Meeting held on March 22, 2022.

Follow this link to see what has been happening in the KCDSB Boardroom:

From the Boardroom for March 22, 2022

- 11. Coordinator Report Andrea Batters Attached 33
- 12. Next Meeting: 1:30 pm Friday, April 29, 2022 Microsoft Teams

LEXIA

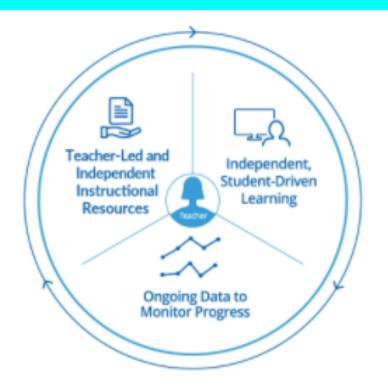


READING



Adaptive Blended Learning Model

- Students are motivated by their own success as they follow personalized learning paths.
- Performance data is easy to access and simple to interpret.
- Program resources support face-to-face instruction and independent student practice.
- Targeted and time-efficient, with the teacher at the core of every step.



Scope & Sequence

Scope and Sequence

rigorous standards.

Lexia® Core5® Reading provides a systematic and structured approach to six critical areas of reading. The program creates personalized learning paths for students of all abilities through an adaptive placement and scaffolded activities that align to



Grad	de vel	Phonological Awareness
	-	• Rhyming
undergaren	Levels 2-5	Blending & Segmenting Syllables & Sounds Beginning Sounds Ending Sounds Ending Sounds Short & Long Vowel Sounds Manipulating Sounds
- annual	Levels 2-9	Short & Long Vowel Sounds Manipulating Sounds (substitutions)
Name	Levels 10-12	Manipulating Sounds (additions & deletions)
2000	Levels 13-15	-

Phonics

Case Letters (visual

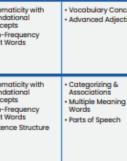
Upper and Lower

matching)

Alphabetizing

Letter-Sound

	(a)
sis	Automaticity/ Fluency
	Automaticity with Foundational Concepts
	Automaticity with Foundational Concepts High-Frequency Sight Words
	Automaticity with Foundational Concepts High-Frequency Sight Words Sentence Structure
	Automaticity with Foundational Concepts High-Frequency Sight Words Reading with Accuracy and Fluency at Paragraph Level Modeled Prosody with Connected Text



Automaticity with

High-Frequency

Foundational

Sight Words

Reading with

Accuracy and

Fluency at Paragraph

Concepts

Spelling Rules for

Adding Affixes

Word Analysis

Morphological

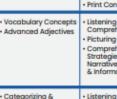
Context Clues

Strategies

Awareness

76

Structural Analy



Listening Comprehension Understanding Text Structure Sequencing Sentences

Comprehension

Comprehension

Comprehension

Comprehension

& Informational Text

Strategies with

Narrative

Listening

Comprehension Strategies with Narrative & Informational Text Reading Comprehension Matching Words/ Phrases with Pictures

Cloze Sentence Comprehension Comprehension across Genres

Listening and Reading Main Idea/Mainly About Details Vocabulary

Prediction

Inferences &

Conclusions

Summarizing

Paraphrasing Perspective

Fact vs. Opinion

Information

Sequence &

Text Features

 Using Evidence Application of

Procedure

Cause & Effect

Compare & Contrast

Illustrations & Visual

Metaphors Parts of Speech

 Picturing Print Concepts

Vocabulary

Basic Categories

Associations

Synonyms and

Antonyms

Similes and

Idioms

Analogies

Academic Vocabulary

General Academic

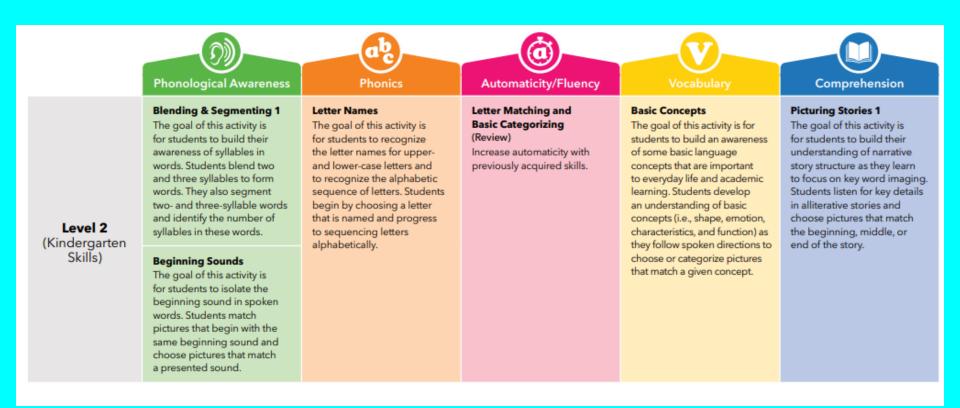
Word Relationships

Domain-specific

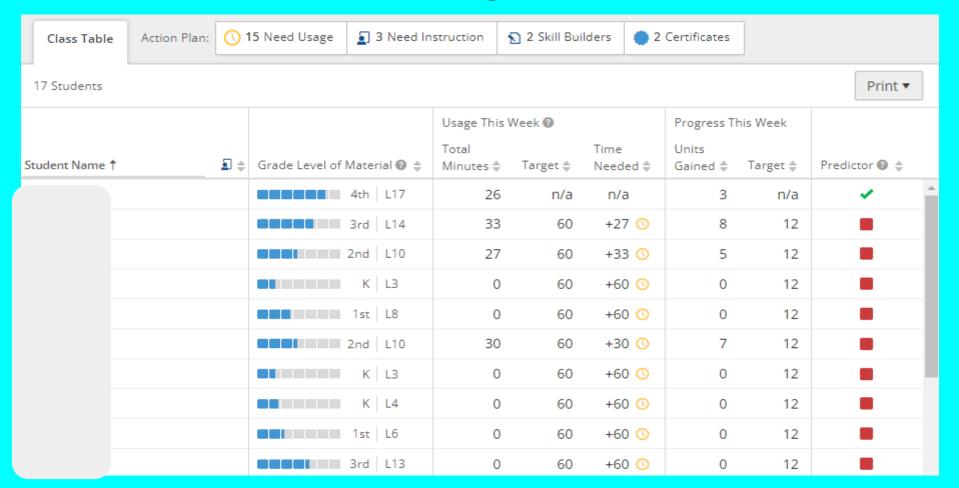
Connectives

Words

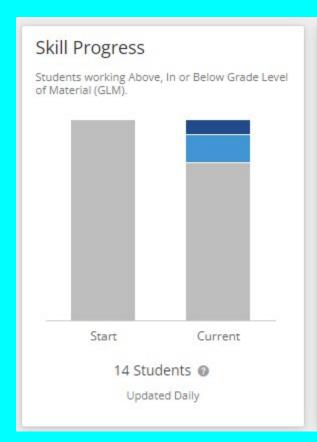
Scope & Sequence: Detailed Kindergarten (Level 2)

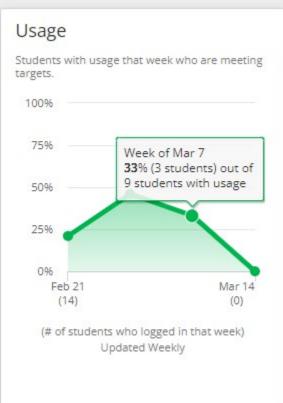


Teacher Class Overview Page



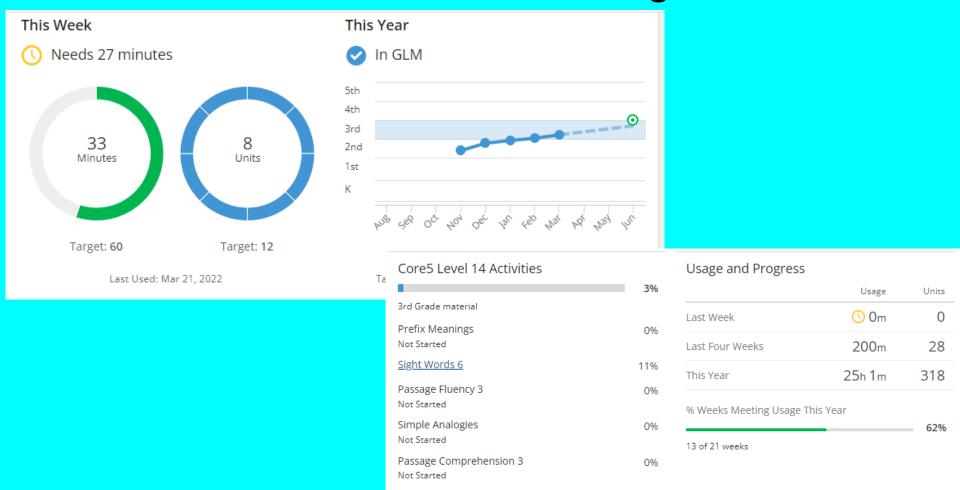
Teacher Class Report Overview







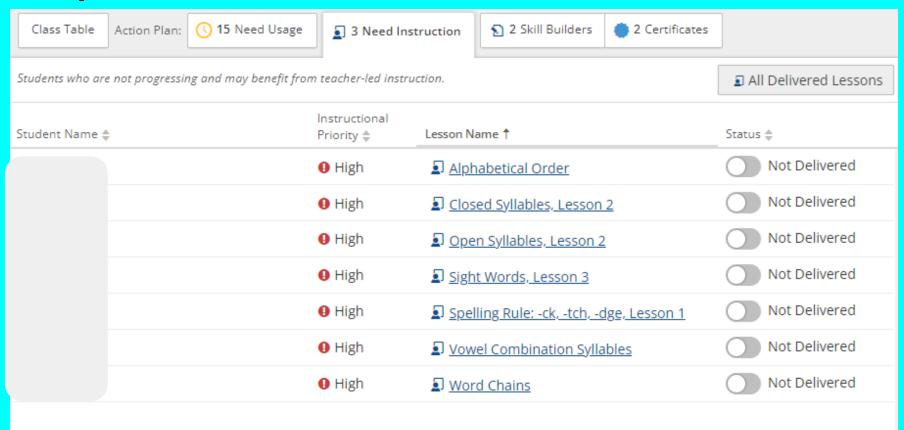
Teacher View: Individual Student Progress



Student Certificates for Achievement



Prompts for Lessons Needed



Responsive Teacher Prompts for Instruction

Instruction Needed: Downloadable Lesson & Materials

Core 5 L2, L4: Letter Names, Short Vowel Sounds. Alphabetical Order

Lexia Connections: Letter Matching - Phonics Skills

Phonics Skills Sequence- Letter Matching

Lexia Resource Hub Lexia Lessons: Slide Decks **Phonics** This instructional resource can be used to support the delivery of Lexia Lessons to students. Currently, Core5 Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Structural Analysis, Letter Tiles Fluency & Automaticity, and Vocabulary slide decks are available. You will be prompted to make your own copy before opening. ■ Keyword-Picture Cards ■ Keyword-Picture Combined Cards E Lexia Lessons: Slide Decks Overview Lexia Lessons: Slide Decks Checklist Phonological Awareness Phonological Awareness Select a Lexia Lesson Phonics Select a Lexia Lesson Rhyming Flashcards Writing Support Vocabulary Structural Analysis Graphic Organizers Instructional Resource: Focus on Word Meanings Core5 Writing Prompt Pack US Version Prefix Meanings Flashcards ■ Core5 Writing Prompt Pack Texas Standards Vocabulary Flashcards—Complete Root Meanings Flashcards Core 5 Writing Prompt Pack UK Version Greek Combining Forms 1 Flas Individual Prompts & Checklists This resource is available in sets by topic. Greek Combining Forms 2 Flas View PDF Informational Text Select a passage View PDF Select a topic View PDF Procedural Text Select a passage View PDF Vocabulary Flashcards to Support Phonological Awareness and Argumentative Text Select a passage Phonics Activities View PDF Correspondence Select a passage

View PDF

View PDF

View PDF

Personal Narrative

Short Story

Poem

Select a passage

Select a passage

Select a passage

This resource is available in leveled sets for students working in Core5 Levels 1 through

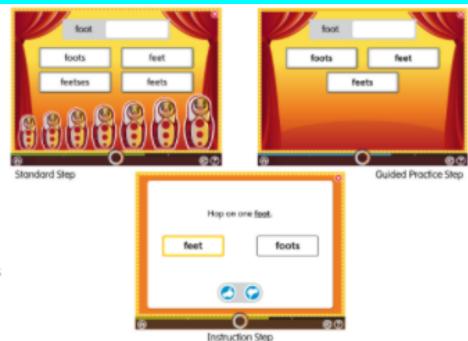
View PDF

9.

Select a level

3-Step Instructional Branching

- Standard This is the first step in a unit. If students complete it successfully, they progress through the activity.
- Gulded Practice This step is reached if errors are made at Standard and includes scaffolded practice based on those errors. If successful, the student returns to Standard.
- Instruction This step is reached if errors are made in Guided Practice and provides explicit instruction and practice. Upon completion of this step, the student returns to Standard.



Lexia Student Experience: Level 6, Building Words

Lexia, Student Experience: Level 14, Sight Words

Lexia Student Experience: Level 20- Complex Analogies



499 Pembroke St. West, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 5P1 613-735-1031 1-800-267-0191 FAX: (613) 735-2649 www.rccdsb.edu.on.ca

...as an inclusive Catholic 'ucational community, we are called to express our nission as church, to pass not the Good News of Jesus rist, to make it relevant in ne world today, and to be the hope for the future 11 February, 2022

Honourable Christine Elliot Minister of Health 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street Toronto, ON M7A 2J3 Christine.elliott@pc.ola.org Honourable Stephen Leece Minister of Education Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street Toronto, ON, M7A 1L2 minister.edu@ontario.ca Stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

Honourable Christine Elliott and Honourable Stephen Leece:

We are aware that the Province of Ontario is currently challenged by a shortage of nurses. Both the health and education sectors are experiencing the impact of these shortages. Currently, there are hundreds of students across the province awaiting nursing care that is required for them to attend school safely and meaningfully. We acknowledge that school staff cannot perform the duties of a nurse/registered health care professional, but stress that it is also imperative that we take every reasonable step to ensure that all students have access to education.

Though this shortage is not the responsibility of school boards, many school districts have advised they are committed to being part of a temporary solution for student and families affected. Boards have supported students requiring health care services in our schools by allowing parents/guardians or a temporary health care service provider, designated by the parents/guardians, to visit the school, adhering to all safety protocols, to provide the health care services, where possible, for their child. Furthermore, many schools are creatively engaging with and providing academic support to students who are at home awaiting nursing care. We are aware that updates to the Ministry of Health "Family-Managed Home Care/Self-directed Care" program eligibility requirements now include parents/guardians of students with complex medical needs that prevent them from attending school due to the shortage or school nurses. Boards are reporting that funding for this program is exceedingly difficult to access, and few families receive support, likely due to the extensive and complex process required to procure the funding.

It is a clear and widespread fact that in-person learning is the best learning environment for students. With support from the province and significant planning, commitment and efforts by District School Boards, schools opened this fall. Tragically, however, many students are unable to attend school with their

Schools to believe in!

peers, and their families are bearing much of the burden in managing the care of students who do not have at-school nursing support secured at this time.

While we acknowledge that there are ongoing provincial level discussions occurring across various ministries regarding the nursing shortage, we stand with other boards and request that this government makes it a top priority to develop a solution that allows all children access to the learning they require and deserve.

Sincerely,

Pat O'Grady

Chair, SEAC

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board SEAC

Cc: Chairs of al Ontario Special Advisory Committees



February 15, 2022

Honourable Stephen Lecce Minister of Education 315 Front Street West Toronto, Ontario, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Lecce,

Members of Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee would like to express our support for Bill 172, the Education Statute Law Amendment Act in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

It is imperative that all staff directly involved with students, such as principals, teachers, student support persons and early childhood educators, are aware of FASD, are able to recognize the early signs and are trained to provide appropriate accommodations for the success and well-being of our students. Inclusion of FASD in all Board of Education policies and guidelines is a vital step towards achieving equitable education for all of Ontario's students.

The members of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee ask that you acknowledge our support for Bill 172 in the pursuit for equitable education for all Ontario students.

Sincerely,

Hanni Vale

Marillale

Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board

cc: Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga, ON L5R 1C5 | 905-890-1221



February 18, 2022

The Honourable Stephen Lecce Minister of Education 5th floor, 438 University Ave Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce,

On January 12, 2022, you announced the changes to the provincial protocols for COVID-19 within Ontario schools. With the full re-opening of schools mid-January, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is concerned about the impact of these changes on the students we represent.

Children belong in inclusive schools and classrooms. These schools must always be safe. Most children with a disability experience a cluster of health and developmental problems. Research indicates that children with 'learning disabilities' are more vulnerable to illness from COVID-19 (Willamson EJ et al., 2021). Down's syndrome individuals are at higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 (Emes D., 2021).

Parents and guardians are often the main caregiver, and many do not have the support systems available if they were to become ill. Resources are severely impacted during waves, but in particular during the current one due to Omicron's transmissibility.

Consultation and Transparency

- There was no consultation prior to changing established reporting protocols. Parents and guardians relied on these to make informed decisions for COVID-19.
- Reporting when absenteeism at a school is 30% or more does not provide a reliable indicator for COVID-19 cases in a school. The newly available online information from the Ministry of Education for percentage of absenteeism in Ontario schools also does not provide reliable information. There are many reasons for absenteeism, and what constitutes absenteeism among school Boards may vary. For example, a child will not be marked absent so long as they switch to online, even if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

Parents and guardians need timely and accurate information to make informed decisions for the safety of their vulnerable children. We believe it is imperative to re-establish COVID-19 case and contact management systems, as well as previous protocols in accordance with applicable privacy laws that allowed for sharing of positive cases in schools.

Health and Safety Measures and Transparency

Keeping schools open and safe has been identified as a priority by your government. We do applaud you for implementing infection control prevention measures to try to address the airborne component COVID-19. We remain concerned to hear some measures are not yet fully implemented. All the while some measures are being reduced or eliminated. It is unclear what data is being used by your Ministry to substantiate this (e.g.,):

 Eliminating the reporting of COVID-19 cases as mentioned and eliminating the closure of classrooms and schools based on COVID-19 spread. These fail to recognize the high-risk issues that impact students with special needs - children who do not or cannot wear masks, contact time and being within 2 metres of a COVID positive case within a class distancing rules cannot



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consistently be met due to class sizes and space restrictions), and student limitations with using hand sanitizer or washing hands.

- Not all classrooms have stand-alone HEPA filter units (or equivalent) to reduce COVID-19 in the air (Lindsley WG et al., 2021) leading to an inequitable situation. Further, there is no continuous quality monitoring of ventilation in place such as the practice of using CO2 detectors for proxy of COVID-19 and allow for real time response (Prather, Poppendieck and Rosenthal, 2021).
- N-95 supply to staff should not be limited to require their re-use when supply almost 2 years later
 into this pandemic is no longer an issue. Re-use does not consider infection control practice
 standards such as prevention of cross-contamination during donning and doffing.
- Respirators are preferred and older students should have access to N95 masks. 3-ply masks provided to schools are optional, but this is a minimum standard (Government of Canada, 2022). Further research identifies that N95 followed by medical masks are superior for risk reduction (Andrejko et al., 2022). Medical masks are being provided by some School Boards to children as it is cost prohibitive to the most vulnerable families and the Ministry needs to reconsider what they are providing to schools.
- Antigen tests and PCR self-collection test kits are provided by schools to students but only once symptomatic. There is a significant segment of our community that is disadvantaged and cannot purchase such tests. It is unclear why these are not offered before a student attends school or why priority testing is not offered at testing centres in an effort to keep schools open and safe.

All this makes it unclear to parents just how safe schools are when there are no transparent, adequate measures provided to gage the level of COVID-19 spread in schools. Parents and guardians of vulnerable children require meaningful measures to make informed decisions whether to send their child to school. The risk-benefits must be determined by the family unit.

Proactive, continuous quality improvements must continue to be utilized to keep schools and our children safe particularly in light of Ontarian's being told to learn to live with COVID-19. This duty of care for safety requires implementing practices based on research and the tracking of transparent and appropriate indicators in order to make adjustments and re-adjustments to enhance safety during this ongoing pandemic and future waves. Parents require this for informed decisions. Appropriate data collection and reporting is an expected standard of our schools and education researchers. We expect the Ministry and elected officials to uphold the same standard.

The safety and well-being of all students is paramount while preserving inclusion. Vulnerable students are simply at greater risk and families need to be better informed. We thank you in advance for your immediate consideration and look forward to a prompt response.

Sincerely,

Bruno Iannicca,

SEAC Chair, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District

Bruno Farnicea

School Board (DPCDSB)

Trustee Mississauga Ward 7

Dely Farrace,

SEAC Vice Chair, DPCDSB

SEAC Association Representative for Brampton Caledon Community Living

cc: DPCDSB Trustees
MPPs of Dufferin-Peel

Chairs of Special Education Advisory Committees

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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References

Andrejko KL, Pry JM, Myers JF, Fukui N, DeGuzman JL, et al. Effectiveness of face mask or respirator Use indoor public settings for prevention of SARS-CoV-2 infection: California, February-December 2021. US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022:71:212-216. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7106e1

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Lindsey WG, Derk RC, Cooyle JP, Martin SB, Mead KR, et al. Efficacy of portable air cleaners and masking for reducing indoor exposure to simulated exhaled SARS-CoV-2 aerosols. US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2021;70(27):972-976. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7027e1

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Williamson EJ., McDonald HI, Bhaskaran K, Walker AJ, Bacon S, et al. Risks of Covid-19 hospital admission and death for people with learning disability: population based cohort study using the OpenSAFELY platform. BMJ. 2021, July 15:374:n1592. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n1592

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2022 - 2023 School Year Calendar

Approved by Ministry March 2, 2022

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All students begin school on September 6, 2022 and end on June 30, 2023

School Holidays

September 2, 2022 School Holiday September 5, 2022 Labour Day October 10, 2022 Thanksgiving Dec. 19, 2022 - Jan. 2, 2023 Christmas Holidays Family Day February 20, 2023 March 13-17, 2023 March Break April 7, 2023 Good Friday April 10, 2023 Easter Monday May 22, 2023 Victoria Day

First Day of School for Students September 6, 2022 Last Day of School for Students

June 30, 2023

187 Instructional Days + 7 PD Days = 194

Professional Activity Days

September 26, 2022 Learning Recovery October 24, 2022 November 25, 2022 February 3, 2023

April 21, 2023 June 12, 2023

September 1, 2022 Student and School Safety Spiritual Development Day Equity and Inclusive Education Elementary Report Cards Secondary Curriculum Indigenous Education Elementary Report Cards

Secondary Curriculum

Elementary Progress Report Report Card November 2022 February 2023 June 2023 Report Card

Secondary

Semester 1 September 1st, 2022 - February 2 2023 Semester 1, Term 1: September 1st - November 11, 2022 Semester 1, Term 2: November 14 - February 2, 2023

Mid Term Report November 2022

Exams January 30, 31, February 1, 2 2023

February 2023 Final Report Semester 2 Februay 3 - June 30, 2023

Semester 2, Term 1 : February 3 - April 24, 2023 Semester 2, Term 2 : April 25 - June 30, 2023

May 2023 Mid Term Report

Exams June 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 2023

Final Report July 2023



Special Education Grant

Special Education Grant – overview



The Special Education Grant is made up of six allocations:

- Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA)
- Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA)
- 3. Special Education Equipment Amount (SEA)
- Special Incident Portion (SIP)
- Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP)
- Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA)

Special Education Allocation

Total Funding for 2021-22	\$3,792,050
Behavioural Expertise Amount	245,640
Education and Community Parternship Program	225,590
Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount	2,263,853
Special Education Equipment Amount (SEA)	55,018
Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA)	1,001,949

Special Education Budget

Kenora Catholi	c District Scho	ol Board							
Special	Education Cos	ts							
2021-2022									
Teachers									
SMB	1.33	155,999.00							
STL	1.00	122,469.00							
SJPII	3.00	319,618.00							
STA	4.00	439,477.00	Includes 1.0 ECPP						
SJS	1.00	119,859.00							
	10.3		1,157,422.00						
Special Education E.A.s									
SMB	4.00	212,520.00							
STL	3.00	162,265.00							
SJPII	10.00	514,050.00							
STA	11.00	562,305.00	Includes 2.0 ECPP						
SJS	9.00	463,795.00							
	37		1,914,935.00						
Central Positions									
Coordinator & Secretary Support	1.50	143,990.00							
BEA/Multi/Speech	5.50	584,175.00							
	7	,	728,165.00						
Spec Ed Budget			83,355.00						
			3,883,877.00						

Special Education Budget

Total Special Education Budget		3,883,877.00
Special Education Surplus/(Deficit)		
Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA)	1,001,949.00	
Special Equipment Amount (SEA)	55,018.00	
Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount	2,263,853.00	
ECPP	225,590.00	
Behavioral Expertise	245,640.00	
		3,792,050.00
Spec Ed Deficit		(91,827.00)

Thank you!



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GROWING.





Dedicated to Excellence in Catholic Education

February 19, 2022

Via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

The Honorable Stephen Lecce Minister of Education Mowat Block, 22nd Floor 900 Bay Street Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce:

On behalf of the Kenora Catholic District School Board, the KCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) stands in support of the Durham District School Board's *Special Education Advisory Committee's* letter concerning the decreases in Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claim funding. Special Education funding reductions result in the funding *being insufficient* to meet the costs of student support needs.

We appreciate that our *fellow* school boards across the province vary greatly in size, demographics, and greatest areas of need. We ask that you ensure that funding does not continue to diminish and that our Boards are provided with adequate resources to meet the support needs of our students with special education needs so that they can reach their full potential.

Thank you for acknowledging our letter regarding a decrease in Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claim funding.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Teresa Gallik Chair of the Board of Trustees Norine Schram Chair of SEAC

Cc: Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA)
Ontario Catholic School Boards
Education Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MASCE)
KCDSB SEAC



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

SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

SUBJECT:	Special Education Coordinator's Report
DATE:	Friday, March 25, 2022
PREPARED FOR:	Special Education Advisory Committee
AGENDA AREA:	Public Session
PREPARED BY:	Andrea Batters, Special Education Coordinator

Some key take-aways from the February 24 **Regional Special Education Committee (RSEC) meeting** included:

- These helpful resources (below) that were recommended by Claudine Munroe, the Director of the Ministry of Education's Special Education/ Success for All Branch:
 - A <u>Remote Learning Guide for Students with Special Education Needs</u> (also available in French on Appuyer l'apprentissage at https://e-a-v.ca/cao/),
 - Educator Modules on Disability, and
 - Parent Resources for Students with Special Education Needs
- Ashley Hendy provided a presentation and overview of the School Mental Health Ontario
 <u>website</u>. She also promoted this free webinar: <u>Special Education Considerations During</u>
 <u>Mental Health Promotion: Presentation</u> which is taking place on Wed, 30 March 2022. This
 PD session is tailored to give information and strategies to those who provide mental health
 support to students in schools.
- The Special Education and the Law presentation and discussion by Gillian Tuck Kutarna, a partner with the Miller Thomson Legal Firm, highlighted a student-centered approach to supporting learners concerning the Modified Day or Exclusion practices, under the Education Act.
- Highlights from the **Northern Adjustment Funding (NAF) Discussion and Updates** by Rick Boisvert & Sylvia Parker included:
 - Feedback from an Educational Assistant (EA) PD Survey conducted in the region on behalf of the Northern Ontario Educational Leaders (NOEL), and
 - A summary of this year's NAF funding and project priorities

A significant EA PD topic that emerged from survey is how to support--and when to refer--Students with mental health issues to services. A NOEL-RSEC sub-committee has formed to address this identified priority area.



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator

Transition to Aspen Student Information System (SIS)

The transition to the Aspen SIS is continuing in the program's Special Education Module. Currently, all School Resource Teams are using the Refer to Special Education Workflow, the Individual Education Plan (IEP), and the Alternative Report Card (when applicable). Teams are now beginning to use the Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) documentation functions. It has been an ongoing journey and, although the systems and workflow steps Aspen has provided are not perfect, everyone is meeting with marked improvements. KCDSB school teams and system leads continue to collaborate to find solutions and everyone is making gains to implement these necessary Special Education student information processes.

Professional Development (PD)

A significant area for PD continues to be on **supporting early literacy programming** and gap closing. The **Heggerty Phonemic Awareness** Tier 1 programming for primary classes (Kindergarten to Grade 2) plays a key role in strengthening early reading skills and the **Bridge the Gap intervention** (grades 2 and up) delivers a boost towards phonemic proficiency to those students who struggle with reading-decoding and writing.

The **Lexia Core 5** and **Power Up** literacy programs continue to provide structured literacy learning opportunities for students (grades 2-8). The animation glitch that was causing issues in the fall has been resolved by KCDSB IT. Many teachers have commented that the assessment data and the language arts lesson resources available in Lexia are valuable to their classroom literacy programs, especially when supporting students with reading and writing skill-building.



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SEAC Report
By Special Education Coordinator