

How can I become involved with SEAC?

Local associations or community members wishing representation on SEAC should write to:

Superintendent of Education
Grand Erie District School Board
Education Centre
349 Erie Avenue
Brantford, Ontario
N3T 5V3

Telephone: 519-756-6301
Toll Free: 888-548-8878
Fax: 519-756-9181

Questions / Contact

Principal Leader of Special Education
519-756-6306, ext. 287214
or

Program Coordinator of Special Education
519-756-6306, ext. 287217

This brochure was recommended by
the Special Education Advisory
Committee and approved by
Grand Erie District School Board
June 2008

SPECIAL EDUCATION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

It is the policy of the Grand Erie District School Board that special education services within the Board are guided by the following principles:

1. All students can succeed. Success looks different for different students.
2. Education is differentiated for students, and provided for students in the whole class, in groups, and very rarely on a one-to-one basis.
3. Students learn differently and have different educational goals. Educators respond to these differences when planning and delivering programs.
4. The goal for all schools is to create environments that consider and include the learning needs of all students.
5. Resources are provided to support students to become independent in reaching their educational goals.
6. The classroom teacher and early childhood educator are the primary support for all students in school. Human resource supports such as learning resource teachers, educational assistants and other support staff work as a support to the classroom teacher and early childhood educator to address the needs of the students.
7. Students are educated in their community schools if this is the more enabling environment for their learning. Self-contained classroom placements are available if regular class placement cannot meet the needs of students.
8. Fairness is not sameness. Students are provided with resources and supports that will assist them to become independent in reaching their educational goals.

Note:

See Board Policy P1 for further information

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



*Growing Excellence...
Inspiring Success*

SEAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Serving Students with
Exceptional Needs*



The Grand Erie District School Board believes every student has individual learning needs. Some students have exceptional learning needs and may require special programs and services.

A student with exceptional needs is a learner whose behaviour, communication, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that he/she is considered to need special education programs as defined in the Education Act.

This brochure has been produced to inform the community, parents/guardians and educators about the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

What is SEAC?

- SEAC is an advisory committee mandated through the Education Act as a standing committee of each school board.
- The committee reports to the school board and makes recommendations to the board regarding special education program and services.

Who is on SEAC?

- The SEAC of the Grand Erie District School Board is comprised of:
 - a) representatives of up to 12 local chapters of associations which further the interests of people with exceptional needs;
 - b) one person representing the interests of Native Students;
 - c) board personnel;
 - d) community members;
 - e) two trustees.

What does SEAC do?

- The Special Education Advisory Committee is provided with the opportunities to:
 - a) participate in the board's annual Special Education Plan;
 - b) participate in the board's annual budget process;
 - c) review the financial statements of the board;
 - d) make recommendations to the board regarding special education programs and service.

When does SEAC meet?

- SEAC meetings are held on a monthly basis, with a minimum of ten meetings per school year.
- The meetings are held at the Education Centre, 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, and are open to the public.

What can SEAC do for me?

- SEAC is a committee that represents the interests of all children with exceptional needs.
- Although specific children and issues are not discussed at SEAC, broad issues affecting services across the school board can be raised for discussion.
- SEAC representatives have a good knowledge of special education services and programs of the school board, and can help parents to navigate through the school system.

Resources / Publications

- The following resources / publications are available at your local school or Grand Erie board office (519) 756-6301:
 - a) Individual Education Plan (IEP) - A Guide for Parents
 - b) Parents' Guide to Special Education - Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC.)

Websites:

- www.granderie.ca
- www.edu.gov.on.ca

SEAC REPRESENTATIVES

Community Representatives

- Beth Caers
- Michelle Carpenter 519-442-7209
- Michelle Falkiner, 519-442-7209
- Charlene Hofbauer 519-756-1184
- Vacant as at October 2017 (Chair)
- Sheila Slood, 226-206-0772
- Kyle Smith 519-755-4153
- Don Werden 519-426-8372
- Rochelle Winter 519-720-6778

Native Representative(s)

- Connie McGregor

Trustees

- Rita Collver, 519-582-4969 (V-Chair 2016/7)
- Carol Ann Sloat (519-757-0536)

Staff

- Liana Thompson, Superintendent of Education 519-756-6306 ext. 2811422
- Paula Curran, SEAC Recording Secretary 519-756-6306 ext. 281173

Resource

- Julie White, Principal Leader Special Education 519-756-6306, ext. 287214
- Karin Mertins, School & Programs Supports Lead 519-756-6306, ext. 287219
- Lesley Boudreault, Program Coordinator Special Education 519-756-6306 ext. 287217
- Piyali Bagchee, Mental Health Lead Special Education 519-756-6306 ext. 287226

Local Organizations / Agencies

- **Contact Brant**
LeaAnn Boswell 519-758-8228 ext. 228
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (ONE)**
Dr. Louise Scott, 519-442-9994
- **Haldimand-Norfolk REACH**
Ronelda Smith, 519-426-7899
- **Lansdowne Children's Centre**
Lorraine DeJong, 519-753-3153 ext. 202
- **Woodview Children's Centre**
Christine Clattenburg, 519-752-5308 ext. 941