



# Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Time 6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams Virtual Meeting

## AGENDA

- A - 1 **Opening** (L. DeJong)
  - (a) Welcome / Land Acknowledgement Statement
  - (b) Roll Call
  - (c) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval
- B - 1 **Timed Items**
  - (a) Wellness Kits (D. Atanas)
- C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**
  - (a) SEAC Speaker Event 2025 (L. DeJong)
  - (b) SEAC Speaker Event 2026 (L. DeJong)
  - \* (c) SEAC Orientation Handbook (L. DeJong/K. Jones)
- D - 1 **Consent Agenda** (L. DeJong)  
**Recommended Motion:**

*"That SEAC accept the January 8, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."*

  - (a) Approve the Minutes of:
    - \* (i) SEAC meeting Minutes dated November 6, 2025
    - (ii) SEAC meeting Minutes dated December 4, 2025
  - (b) Receive the correspondence from:
    - \* (i) Durham District School Board dated October 29, 2025
- E - 1 **New Business**
  - (a) Appointments to SEAC (K. Graham)

*"That the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative and Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children's Centre to the Special Education Advisory Committee for the remainder of the Term 2022-2026 be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval."*
  - \* (b) Grand Erie's Special Education Plan – Standard 2 (J. Senior)
- F - 1 **Information Items**
  - (a) Policies out for comment (K. Jones) – Nil
  - (b) [Family Math E-Newsletters](#)
  - (c) [Family Literacy E-Newsletter](#)
  - (d) Director's Report 2024-25 (K. Graham)
  - (e) Chair / Vice-Chair Updates (L. DeJong / K. Jones)
- G - 1 **Community Updates**
  - (a) Creative Workforce Symposium – Norfolk (P. Found / J. Senior)
- H - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Planning Committee**
  - (a) Role of the System Staff
  - (b) Student and Family Support Offices
  - (c) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator
  - (d) Skill Building and Hub Programs
  - (e) Behaviour Support Plans and Safety Plans
  - (f) The Right to Read Report – Early Literacy Intervention



## Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Time 6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### AGENDA

I - 1      **Adjournment** (L. DeJong)

J - 1      **Next Meeting**

Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams Virtual Meeting

# Grand Erie's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

## Member Orientation Handbook 2025-26





## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member Orientation Handbook

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## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member Orientation Handbook

### Purpose of the Orientation Handbook

The members of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Grand Erie District School Board have prepared this orientation handbook to assist you in understanding and performing your role as a SEAC member.

SEAC is a committee of the Board that includes:

- Representatives of community agencies serving individuals with special needs
- Representatives of parent/caregiver organizations advocating children with special needs
- Representatives of community at large who have an interest in special needs education
- Trustees
- Grand Erie Specialized Services employees are not members of SEAC, but act as a resource to SEAC

### What is SEAC?

Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) were established by Ontario's Education Act, Section 206, Subsection (2), to make recommendations to their Boards about any matter related to the establishment and development of special education programs and services for students with exceptional needs. Each SEAC is responsible for examining, reviewing and making recommendations regarding the provision of special education programs and services in an advisory capacity. Some areas of focus are: philosophy and goals, policies and procedures, organizational structures, program delivery methods, services and facilities, funding, and the annual review of the Board's Special Education Plan.

SEAC members are welcome to bring the more general concerns of parents to the attention of Grand Erie employees and trustees. All these groups work together to find solutions which meet the needs of our exceptional students. SEAC does not deal with specific questions about individual situations, which should be addressed to the child's teacher or the special education resource employees working with the child.

### SEAC Meetings

Ontario Regulation 464/97 provides direction for SEAC meetings requiring SEAC to meet at least ten times each year. Grand Erie SEAC meets from September to June of each school year. Most SEAC meetings take place at the Grand Erie Education Centre located at 349 Erie Avenue in Brantford, usually on the first Thursday of the month. Meeting times alternate between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on alternate months. Meetings may occasionally be scheduled to accommodate other special events, or rescheduled due to inclement weather.

SEAC meetings are open to the public, although members of the public wishing to present to SEAC must approach the committee Chair ahead of time, via [info@granderie.ca](mailto:info@granderie.ca).

Community members may also approach any SEAC representative with a question or concern. [Contact information for SEAC members](#) is provided on the Grand Erie Website.



# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

## Member Orientation Handbook

### SEAC Roles and Responsibilities

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is a statutory committee of the Board, established under the Education Act to provide important advice and recommendations on special education programs and services. As a statutory body, SEAC carries both responsibility and influence in shaping decisions that affect students with diverse learning needs.

Each member plays a vital role in ensuring the committee fulfills its mandate: regular attendance at meetings is essential to maintain quorum, contribute to informed discussion, and uphold the integrity of collective decision-making. By participating consistently and thoughtfully, members help ensure that SEAC's voice remains strong, representative, and impactful in guiding the Board's work on behalf of students and families.

For a description of SEAC's composition, roles and responsibilities under Ontario legislation, see Regulation 464/97, Education Act 1998. A link to this Regulation is available in the "Additional Resources" section of this document.

A summary of SEAC's roles and responsibilities include:

1. To make recommendations to the Board regarding the establishment, development, and delivery of Special Education programs and services. SEAC activities which support this role include:
  - Participating in program reviews
  - Receiving and responding to reports about Special Education programs and services
  - Discussing program recommendations that are presented by employees and/or subcommittees
  - Bring forward issues for discussion and recommendations for action by administration and/or the Board
2. Sharing information about association/agency activities and issues that relate to Grand Erie's Special Education programs, and to participate in the annual review of the Special Education Plan. SEAC activities which support this role include:
  - Reviewing and discussing parts of the Special Education Plan
  - Reviewing changes to the plan and providing feedback to employees and the Board
3. To participate in the annual budget process for Special Education in Grand Erie. SEAC activities which support this role include:
  - Receiving presentations from administration about the budget process and key issues
  - Taking the opportunity to ask questions, offer suggestions, and provide feedback about the budget process
  - Taking the opportunity to make presentations to the trustees about proposed expenditures or funding allocations
4. To communicate with parents/caregivers and members of the public about Special Education programs and services and the activities of SEAC. SEAC activities which support this role include:
  - Holding open meetings which members of the public can attend
  - Developing and distributing information about Special Education and SEAC
  - Distributing information and consulting with members of the associations / agencies represented by SEAC members
  - Participating in consultation between individual SEAC members and their respective provincial associations
  - Providing input on the Grand Erie website and publications which provide information about Special Education



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member Orientation Handbook

- Increase awareness of Ministry of Education special education resources, including the Ministry of Education and SEAC websites
- 5. To interact with other ministries, community partners, and agencies. SEAC activities which support this role include:
  - Responding to Ministry of Education consultations on Special Education policy and procedures
  - Responding to government consultations on programs and policies which may affect students who require special education programs and services
  - Consulting and collaborating with other ministries, community partners, and agencies regarding the development of changes in services and programs which may affect students who require special education

### SEAC Terms of Reference

Reach Board creates the [\*\*Terms of Reference\*\*](#) for its SEAC. For the complete list of Grand Erie DSB SEAC's Terms of Reference, see the SEAC section of Grand Erie District School Board Bylaw 8.

The Terms of Reference cover factors including:

- Purpose and responsibility of SEAC
- Composition of the committee
- Operating procedures and scope
- Role of the Board
- Role of SEAC
- Making recommendations to the Board

### Additional Resources for SEAC Members

The following resources are available to SEAC members:

- Ontario Education Act [\*\*Regulation 464/97\*\*](#) regarding SEACs
- [\*\*Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans\*\*](#) On January 27, 2000, the Minister of Education announced the government's plans for improving the quality of special education programs and services in Ontario, and for ensuring greater accountability in the area of special education. The document describes the new province-wide standards that school boards must meet when developing their special education plans
- Ministry of Education [\*\*Standards for the Planning, Development, and Implementation of Individual Education Plans\*\*](#) (IEPs)
- The Ministry of Education [\*\*Transition Plan Resource Guide\*\*](#) (2002)
- [\*\*Special Education section\*\*](#) of the Grand Erie District School Board website

### Guiding Principles to for a Positive Discussion and Environment During SEAC Meetings

- If you are unclear about something, ask!
- Be prepared – Review the agenda
- Don't interrupt or dominate the discussion
- Practice active listening
- Stay focused on the system perspective, not individual student perspective
- Identify concerns and state them
- Collaborate, compromise, and discuss



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Member Orientation Handbook

- Appreciate everyone's unique perspective and knowledge they are bringing to the discussion
- Enjoy the learning!

### Basic Format for SEAC Meetings

1. Arrival
  - In person attendance – arrive and display your name card
  - Virtual attendance – set your name to include your first and last name and your role on SEAC (i.e. Community Representative, Norfolk Association for Community Living, Trustee, etc.)
2. Opening: The Chair will call the meeting to order and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
  - Roll Call: Note is made of any members who are absent. If you cannot attend, please notify the SEAC Recording Secretary (Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Special Education), via email or phone (519-756-6301 ext. 281173)
  - Confirmation of Agenda: If the agenda is amended it must be moved and seconded
  - Approval of Minutes: Motion for approval of minutes as provided (or as provided and then emended) should be made and seconded.
3. Timed Items: This is an opportunity to have a guest speaker who educates SEAC in some topic pertaining to SEAC's areas of interest (e.g. special education budget, specific special education programs and classrooms, etc.).
4. Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings: Any items that require follow-up or action from previous meetings are addressed.
5. Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda will include motions for approval of minutes and any correspondence that is to be received as information.
6. New Business: Grand Erie employees may provide items of interest to SEAC for information or approval.
7. Community Updates: SEAC members can bring forward items of interest from their various communities and agencies.
8. Future Agenda Items and SEAC Planning Committee: Noted on the agenda.
9. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn if made and seconded.
10. Next Meeting date/time: Confirmed at the end of the meeting.

### Contact Information

For more information about the Grand Erie District School Board SEAC, contact [info@granderie.ca](mailto:info@granderie.ca) or the Superintendent of Education, Special Education at 519-756-6301 ext. 281173.

You may also wish to visit the [\*\*Special Education Advisory Committee \(SEAC\)\*\*](#) page on Grand Erie's website.



# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday November 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

## MINUTES

### Present:

Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: R. Colver, E. Thomas, Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found, C. Gilman

### Administration:

Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: K. Graham, L. Thompson, Principal Leader J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

**Absent with regrets:** Trustees: B. Doyle, L. Whiton Community Representatives: K. Kelly Local Organizations: C. Stefanelli, T. West

### Absent:

Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto, L. Nydam Local Organizations: S. Jennions

**Visiting Trustees:** Trustee C.A. Sloat

### A - 1 **Opening**

#### **Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Superintendent Thompson called the November 6, 2025 meeting to order at 6: 01 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

### (b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

### (c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Moved by: L. DeJong

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the November 6, 2025 agenda be approved as amended.

**Carried**

### B - 1 **Timed Items**

#### **Student Showcase**

Superintendent Thompson shared a video showcasing two Grand Erie students being presented with the Ignite Award, sponsored by LearnStyle.

### (b) **SEAC Chair/Vice-Chair Elections**

L. DeJong was acclaimed as Chair of SEAC for 2025-26. K. Jones was acclaimed as Vice Chair of SEAC for 2025-26.

### C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

#### **Virtual Meeting Guidelines**

Superintendent Thompson reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines with SEAC members.



# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday November 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

## MINUTES

### (b) SEAC Speaker Event

The flyer was shared for the SEAC Speaker Event taking place on Thursday December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. This flyer will be promoted throughout Grand Erie. SEAC members are encouraged to send questions for the guest speakers to J. Valstar ahead of the event.

### D - 1 Consent Agenda

THAT SEAC accept the November 6, 2025 consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: R. Colver

#### (a) Approve the Minutes of:

- (i) SEAC meeting Minutes dated September 4, 2025
- (ii) SEAC meeting Minutes dated October 2, 2025

### E - 1 New Business

#### (a) Grade 7-8 Pathways Planning Guide

Superintendent Graham shared Grand Erie's Grade 7-8 Pathways Planning Guide. It was clarified that this is an adaptable guide for the use of grade 7 and 8 students.

#### (b) Special Education Plan Review – Standard 10 – Individual Education Plans

L. Miedema reviewed Standard 10 of the Special Education Plan with SEAC members. There was discussion around eligibility and the process for initiating an Individual Education Plan (IEP), and the communication process with families. An IEP summary Resource Sheet created for use by educators & parents when IEP discussions are to occur was shared.

#### (c) Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – 2024-25 Update

Superintendent Thompson presented an update on Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2024-25.

### F - 1 Information Items

- (a) Policies out for comment
- (b) Family Math Newsletters
- (c) Family Literacy Newsletter
- (d) System Updates

Director Roberto shared the October 2025 Director's Report with SEAC members.

#### (e) Chair / Vice-Chair Updates

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

### G - 1 Community Updates

P. Found shared an event called Creative Workforce Solutions Symposium being held Thursday November 27, 2025 at the Norfolk General Hospital.

### H - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

- (a) Role of the System Staff



# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday November 6, 2025

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

6:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

- (b) PAAC on SEAC website
- (c) Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
- (d) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator
- (e) Skill Building and Hub Programs

I - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday December 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.

J - 1 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday December 4, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

## MINUTES

**Present:** Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: E. Thomas, L. Passmore, Local Organizations: L. Campbell, C. Gilman

**Administration:** Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: K. Graham, L. Munro, L. Thompson, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

**Absent with regrets:** Trustee: T. Sault Community Representatives: K. Kelly, L. Nydam Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found

**Absent:** Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto Local Organizations: S. Jennions, C. Stefanelli, T. West

**Visiting Trustees:** Trustee C.A. Sloat

**A - 1      Opening**

**Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Chair L. DeJong called the December 4, 2025 meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**(b)      Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

**(c)      Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval - Nil**

**B - 1      Timed Items**

**Secondary Program Review**

Superintendent Munro gave an update of the Secondary Program Review.

**C - 1      Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

**SEAC Speaker Event**

Chair DeJong reminded SEAC members about the virtual Speaker Event being held this evening, Thursday December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

**(b)      Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)**

Superintendent Thompson gave an overview of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education and their purpose.

**D - 1      Consent Agenda – Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting**

*THAT SEAC accept the November 6, 2025 consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.*

**(a)      Approve the Minutes of:**

**i.** SEAC meeting Minutes dated November 6, 2025

**(b)      Receive the correspondence from:**

**i.** Durham District School Board dated October 29, 2025



# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday December 4, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

## MINUTES

### E - 1 **New Business**

#### (a) **Appointment to SEAC**

*"That the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC and the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children's Centre be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval."*

Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting

#### (b) **Special Education Plan – Standard 2 – The Board's General Model for Special Education**

Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting.

### F - 1 **Information Items**

#### (a) **Policies out for comment**

- (i) [Community Planning and Facility Partnership \(FA-11\)](#)
- (ii) [Community Use of Schools \(FA-04\)](#)
- (iii) [Conflict of Interest Related to hiring Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees \(HR-07\)](#)
- (iv) [Emergency Planning \(SO-05\)](#)
- (v) [Fundraising \(SO-01\)](#)
- (vi) [Harassment and Objectionable Behaviour \(HR-05\)](#)
- (vii) [Health and Safety \(HS-01\)](#)
- (viii) [Student Expulsions \(SO-07\)](#)
- (ix) [Student Suspension \(SO-06\)](#)
- (x) [Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media \(IT-04\)](#)

#### (b) **Family Math Newsletters**

#### (c) **Family Literacy Newsletter**

#### (d) **System Updates**

Superintendent Graham shared the Annual Learning and Operating Plan Final report 2024-25. Superintendent Thompson shared the Annual Learning and Operating Plan 2025-26

#### (e) **Director's Update**

#### (f) **Chair / Vice-Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

### G - 1 **Community Updates**

Chair DeJong shared two updates from the Rick Hansen Foundation.

### H - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

- (a) Role of the System Staff
- (b) PAAC on SEAC website
- (c) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator
- (d) Skill Building and Hub Programs



# Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday December 4, 2025

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

1:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

I - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday January 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.

J - 1 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Draft

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October 29, 2025

Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 438 University Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Calandra,

**Re: Timing of Release of Core Education Funding Documents to School Boards**

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of Durham District School Board's (DDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Our SEAC includes eight parent associations and two Members at Large, who represent thousands of families in Durham Region.

SEACs across the Province try to follow the calendar set out by PAaC on SEAC. This calendar indicates that Core Education Funding (formerly referred to as Grants for Student Needs) is typically released in March, which would allow for a draft budget to be presented to SEAC for consultation. This timing allows for SEACs to provide meaningful consultation on actual funding allocations and to participate in a fulsome way in public consultations.

Having said that, the spring of 2018, just prior to the Provincial election that summer, was the last time that this timeline was met. Since 2019, the funding documents from the Ministry have not been provided to the school board until late April or into May, with this year not being released until 23<sup>rd</sup>. While we understand that there was a spring election this year, we would have hoped that this incumbent government would have put a mechanism in place to ensure that school boards would be provided with Core Education Funding material in a timely manner to allow school boards to plan for the upcoming 2025-26 school year. Given that school boards cannot run deficits, they must have concrete numbers ahead of the budgeting process beginning.

As a direct result of the delay in the release of the Core Education Funding documents, SEACs have not had an opportunity to provide true and meaningful consultation on a draft budget for the school boards nor participate in a fulsome and constructive way at public consultations since 2018. A robust and healthy consultation process enables and facilitates transparency, collaboration and builds trust with the school boards, government, and communities that we serve. Returning to a March release of Core Education Finding also aligns with the Ministry's PPM 170 regarding transparency by ensuring that parents are receiving timely, reliable, and consistent information related to school board budgets.

Going forward, we request that the Ministry of Education endeavor to return to the PAaC on SEAC schedule for the release of Core Education Funding documents in March to allow SEACs to return to providing school



## Durham District School Board

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6  
Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

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boards with meaningful and fulsome consultation on the draft budgets and not simply provide a presentation on what we hope to see the board continue to fund.

Sincerely,

Eva Kyriakides  
SEAC Chair  
Durham District School Board

cc: Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



@DurhamDistrictSchoolBoard



@DDSSchools

**ddsb.ca**



## Standard 2

### The Board's General Model for Special Education

**The purpose of this standard is to provide the ministry and the public with information on Grand Erie's philosophy and service delivery model for the provision of special education programs and services.**

#### Grand Erie's Specialized Services: Supporting Every Learner

##### Multi-Year Strategic Plan Priority

*Together, we build a culture of learning, well-being, and belonging to inspire each learner.*

In Grand Erie, Specialized Services (our term for Special Education) are designed to ensure that every student can thrive in the most enabling learning environments—ideally in their home schools and communities. We are committed to barrier-free, inclusive education where all students can participate fully and meaningfully in their learning journey.

##### Our Guiding Principles

We believe in the potential of every student. Our approach is grounded in the following principles:

1. Inclusive First
  - The first and preferred option for every student is placement in a regular classroom in their community school
  - Supports and services are designed to promote inclusion and full participation.
  - Accommodations are provided when barriers remain
2. Equity and Accessibility
  - We embed the principles of equity, equality, and human rights into all learning opportunities
  - Universal Design for Learning (UDL) ensures curriculum, instruction, and assessment are accessible to all
3. Respect for Individual Strengths
  - Every student is unique. Success looks different for each learner
  - Placement decisions consider multiple factors and are never based on stereotypes or bias
  - Diversity in ability is valued and enriches the learning environment
4. High Expectations and Responsive Teaching
  - We hold high expectations for all learners
  - Educators use responsive teaching strategies and differentiated assessment to support growth
5. Collaborative Support
  - The classroom teacher is the primary support for all students
  - Additional staff collaborate through coaching, co-planning, and co-teaching to meet student needs

6. Empowering Independence
  - Resources and supports are provided to help students become as independent as possible in achieving their goals
7. Data-Informed Decisions
  - We use data intentionally to understand student strengths and needs
  - This helps us remove barriers and provide precise, effective interventions

Grand Erie's model for Special Education service provision has been designed to comply with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Education Act and Regulations made under the Act, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and any other relevant legislation.

### **Grand Erie's Annual Learning and Operating Plan 2025-26**

#### **Classroom Placements**

Classroom placements are provided on a continuum based upon the strengths and needs of the student. The continuum includes:

- Regular classroom with Universal Design for Learning, responsive, relevant, and culturally sustainable instruction and assessment and accommodations.
- Self-contained special education classrooms, partially integrated.
- Self-contained special education classrooms fully contained.
- Wrap-around supports and services.

#### **Accessing Special Education Services**

When a diverse learning strength or need is identified after Universal Design for Learning and responsive instruction and assessment have been implemented in the classroom, it can be addressed at a school team or multi-disciplinary team meeting.

#### **School Team**

School Team plays a significant role in helping classroom educators address difficulties that a student may be experiencing in the classroom. School Team meets regularly to build the capacity of all educators to provide accessible and meaningful educational opportunities for all students. School Team occurs prior to, and following, formal assessment and identification.

#### **Multi-Disciplinary Team**

Multi-Disciplinary Team includes system staff members that support educators to problem solve and enhance their own capacity to learn and implement additional Tier 1, 2, or 3 strategies to support students. The Multi-Disciplinary Team may recommend and support additional school-based strategies and/or community partner involvement.