



Land Acknowledgement

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people, as the traditional peoples of this territory. We acknowledge and give gratitude to the Indigenous peoples for sharing these lands in order for us to continue our work here today.

AGENDA

Revised April 22, 2021

Time	Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
A-1 Opening					
6:00	(a) Welcome/ Land Acknowledgement Statement				W. Rose
	(b) Roll Call			√	P. Curran
	(c) Agenda Additions/ Deletions/ Approvals		√	√	W. Rose
B-1 Timed Items					
	(a) A Day in the Life of the Child and Youth Worker	√			P. Bagchee/R. tenBrinke
C-1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings					
	(a) Ratification of Minutes March 11, 2021*			√	W. Rose
	(b) Letter to Ministry of Education/EQAO – AT Barriers for Field Test of Grade 9 Math and OSSLT*		√	√	W. Rose
	(c) Book Club – Pride and Prejudice – Sarah General		√	√	L. Thompson
	(d) Survey Monkey	√	√		W. Rose/ P. Boutis
D-1 New Business					
	(a) Summer School Programming for Students with Special Education Needs	√			SEMT
	(b) Draft Grand Erie's Special Education Plan – 2020-21*	√	√	√	SEMT
	(c) Board Achievement Plan Mid-Year Update *	√	√		L. Thompson
E-1 Other Business					
	(a) EA Allocation 2021-22 – Draft Board Report*	√	√		J. White



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-08

MS Teams

Thursday, April 22, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Time	Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
F-1 Standing Items					
	(a) Policy/Procedures Out for Comment F7 Disclosure of Wrongdoing (Whistle-Blower) SO14 Equity and Inclusive Education Please send your comments to kathryn.giannini@granderie.ca by April 30, 2021	√			P. Curran
	(b) Trustee Update – Current Board Activities				R. Collver/T. Waldschmidt
G-1 Information Items					
	(a) SEAC Representative – Strategic Plan Participants	√			L. Thompson
	(b) SEAC Membership Update	√			W. Rose
H-1 Community Updates					
	(a) None				
I-1 Correspondence					
	(a) None				
J-1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning					
			√		W. Rose
K-1 Next Meeting					
	Thursday, May 20, 2021 TBD	√			W. Rose
L-1 Adjournment					
	Meeting adjourned at p.m.			√	W. Rose

Note: Column Abbreviations

- * Attachments to the agenda
- Info. Item for information only
- Dia. Item for dialogue
- Res. Item for resolution or recommendation
- SEMT Special Education Management Team

AGENDA ITEM(S)

Standing:

- LDAO SEAC Circular September, November, February, April and June (as available).



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

SEAC Members

Present: Chair W. Rose, L. Boswell, C. Brady, T. Buchanan, B. Bruce, R. Collver, L. DeJong, A. Detmar, M. Gatopoulos, K. Jones, J. Trovato, T. Waldschmidt, T. Wilson.

Regrets: P. Boutis, M. Carpenter, A. Csoff, L. Scott, R. Winter.

Resource Staff

Present: P. Bagchee, L. Boudreault, K. Mertins, S. Slaman, L. Thompson, J. White

Guests:

Present: J. Gemmill, ITS Staff, S. Gibson, Grand Erie DSB Trustee

Recorder: P. Curran.

A-1 Opening **W. Rose**

(a) Welcome

Chair Rose welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 6:04 and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) Agenda Additions / Deletions / Approvals W. Rose
Add D-1 New Business (c) EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment and OSSLT Assistive Technology Limitations – J. White

Moved by: C. Brady

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the SEAC 20-07 Agenda for Thursday, March 11, 2021 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

B-1 Timed Items **W. Rose**

(a) Book Club 47 ;02 Trustee S. Gibson

Trustee Gibson informed members she recently met with Joe Tice, the board's Indigenous Education Lead and is very excited about the proposed book club initiative. Together they chose a book and have invited SEAC and GEPIC committee members, trustees and senior management to read the book with a plan for a later virtual discussion.

"Pride and Rezjudice", written by Sara General is a fictional light read and was chosen as a positive story which will help promote understanding and enjoyment of the Haudenosaunee culture.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Gibson and Mr. Tice will meet virtually with the author who is a resident of the Six Nations of the Grand River on Turtle Island and hope everyone enjoys Ms. General's work. This book as well as her other publications is available at the Good Minds Book Store, 188 Mohawk Street Brantford for \$14.99 and a Kindle version of this book is also available on Amazon.ca for \$3.68 (Mar 12/21). (<https://www.sarageneral.com/bio>).

Good Minds will deliver for anyone not able to get into the store. This publication is not yet available at libraries within our district.

In response to members questions, Trustee Gibson informed a flyer is in development and planned for the end of March. She asked that members please reach out with any other questions via email.

C-1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings W. Rose

(a) Ratification of Minutes February 18, 2021 W. Rose

- i. K. Jones noted the connectivity issues were indicated in this board, not "other" at the bottom of page 4.

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the minutes for SEAC 20-06 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(b) Budget – SEAC Input Activity J. White

Members were provided with two questions and broken into small group discussion for 10 minutes after which ideas were presented to the main group.

1. Considering our Guiding Principles, are there any misalignments in the use of funds?
2. Where would you prioritize new and / or additional positions?

Group 1 –

- When comparing staffing and spending between the elementary and secondary panels, it seems that the tiered approach is much stronger in elementary (more LRTs and EAs). More self-contained classes in secondary. This doesn't seem to align with guiding principles and tiered support. Why is there less pressure to keep students in the regular classroom at the secondary level?
- We did discuss some of the reasons for spending differences – enrollment is different in each panel and the cost of a teacher is different in each panel. Also, there is an increase in the number of self-contained classes at secondary because this is the time when many parents of special education students want to move from regular class to self-contained class.
- If some self-contained budget was diverted to hiring additional EAs, could there be more inclusion at secondary. EA support is integral to inclusion. More EAs are needed.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Group 2 –

- Generally felt the funds were appropriately distributed
- Seems to be a lack of transition support for people leaving school at age 18

Group 3 –

- Generally, agree with distribution of funds.
- Building use of other support staff at the higher level to better communicate with parents; using increased Educational Assistant support to build capacity and engagement instead of waiting for students to demonstrate model behaviour.
- Programming for enrichment teachers, e.g., weekly / monthly packages delivered to classroom teachers.
- Create blocks of virtual enrichment programming.
- Could alternative curriculum resources be created for the classroom teacher to deliver.
- Flip the roles in the classroom so that the teacher spends more time with the child with exceptionalities than does the Educational Assistant.
- Provide more EA support for integration opportunities.
- Develop / encourage peer to peer supports.
- Integration and transition support teacher to support, monitor and follow up on self-contained classroom transitions, especially complicated transitions.
- Transition support teacher 18 to adult.

Group 4 –

- Didn't have enough information to identify priorities of fund distribution.
- Need support workers to ensure social work, etc. in place to help build resiliency for integration in virtual modules.
- Many parents still don't understand the Educational Assistant allocation process.
- Students in the middle are often left out and just getting by; need help in behaviour modification.

Group 5 –

- Noticed the increasing support in classroom for students and staff struggling with Mental Health and how it fits nicely with the information shared in January
- Reduced suspensions, how are behaviour concerns supported for home learners
- Psycho Education consults are on the fence as the real need for them is often in opposition to lack of understanding how learning differences present.

Ms. White thanked everyone and invited them to add any additional information to the MS Form from the link they received.

She also reminded everyone that the draft board report for allocation of educational assistants will be shared at the April meeting.

(c) C-CAT Administration 2020-21

J. White

Presented a review of the previous presentation for any new members.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Grand Erie is using version 7 of the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test or C-CAT which is a universal screening process for all grade 3 students designed to measure a student's ability to reason in areas of Verbal (words), Quantitative (numerical) and Nonverbal (spatial).

Students are given a score for each of the three areas and an overall score which is designed to indicate the scope and strength of a student's overall cognitive ability for learning.

The results provide individual information, which was used as determination for enhanced learning support, but educators recently began exploring different ways to use C-CAT information.

Exemptions are a school-based decision in collaboration with parents but are discouraged as students are accommodated whenever possible and preclude the need for exemptions in many cases.

Ms. White explained it was being presented to SEAC again because of administration barriers imposed by COVID. A virtual assessment is available but is US based and provides concerns about the administration of home testing.

C-CAT will be administered this spring to students learning face to face with an opportunity provided for those students in virtual learning to test in the fall, providing all tests occur before October as outlined by provincial requirements.

Notification letters will go to families both in school and in virtual learning outlining the process available for both formats.

D-1 New Business W. Rose

(a) Survey Monkey W. Rose

The survey is intended to elicit more interaction from members, to decide on topics of interest to members and to determine if any members wish to present on a topic.

Chair Rose hopes to have a link for the survey ready for the next meeting.

(b) Staff Highlights – SEAC Input L. Thompson

The Special Education Management Team (SEMT) recently met with the Chair and Vice-Chair and discussed the return of system staff presentations on their role in special education.

Members suggested they also speak about how many students they serve, how many schools they work in and would like to hear about a typical day on the job.

Would also like to learn about the resources they bring to the classrooms and how they support the teacher.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

E-1 Other Business W. Rose

- (a) EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment of Mathematics and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test- Assistive Technology Limitations J. White

Wanted SEAC to be aware that this year EQAO will be a fully digital assessment platform in a lockdown browser which has significant implications for students requiring assistive technology to support their output to show what they know. Students will only have access to the technology available in the lockdown browser.

Grand Erie students use three assistive technology applications, but EQAO hired a third-party vendor to create the assessment platform and they chose Kurzweil as the only assistive technology that will be available in the lockdown browser. Also, some of its features may not be available or may not be presented in a familiar format for students. Staff is working diligently with school administrators and learning resource teachers to help ensure families understand the limitations of the digital model.

Grand Erie Information Technology staff is currently working with the third-party vendor to allow Word Q, but Dictate will not be available.

Practice tests are available to help students become familiar with the current platform and format, but staff feel this is not equitable.

Grade 9 assessment for math does not count toward their final grade unless the student and teacher have agreed upon it ahead of time.

OSSLT test must be attempted before students can access the course.

Members agreed to endorse a letter from SEAC announcing the committee's displeasure with the decision to hire the vendor who did not fully take assistive technology into consideration. W. Rose will compose a letter with assistance from J. White.

It was suggested that parent and student voices be included in the letter which will also be presented to the Grand Erie trustees and senior administration for endorsement.

- (b) Bylaw 8 – Committees of the Board, Draft SEAC Terms of Reference L. Thompson

Committee members were presented with a draft revision with proposed amendments that will come to the Board of Trustees in June.

The draft now includes reference to virtual meetings, has language updates and the addition of Section 3.10 Guests.

R. Collver requested all references be "Superintendent with responsibility for Special Education" for consistency. She also suggested clarification on 7.1 involving making recommendations by SEAC to the Board.

Chair Rose confirmed SEAC endorsed the proposed changes.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

- (c) Educational Assistant (EA) Allocation Process J. White

Allocation will happen in two steps this year.

In a tiered support approach, Educational Assistants are part of and support the classroom teacher / educator team where the main foci is the implementation of evidence-based practices in Learning for All, knowing the student, differentiated instruction and Universal Design for Learning.

The middle tier provides accommodations that are more intensive and individualized. There are fewer learners in this tier and the school Learning Resource Teacher (LRT) and in some cases, system support staff works closely with the classroom teacher / educator team to implement appropriate strategies and support.

The top tier involves Educational Assistants (EA) as a human resource who is available when the most intensive support is required. This may include students in self-contained classes or students in regular grades. EA support the students with extensive and pervasive Special Education needs.

EA are assigned to a school, not to individual students or programs and are designed to support the teacher or classroom and intentionally assist students with developing independence wherever possible. It is recognized that some students will require direct ongoing support from an educational assistant throughout their education.

Special education staff work collaboratively with Teacher Consultants and school administrators from March to the end of May to determine individual school allocations.

Administrators have flexibility to reassign EAs in different areas of their school where need, on any given day, exists.

The board report will be shared with members at the April SEAC meeting.

- (d) Right to Read K. Mertins

Ms. Mertins informed members she and Superintendent Thompson attended the virtual presentation with a few other staff who were all surprised at the messaging that was in such sharp contrast to the parents' comments last year who said the "right to read" was the reading of print and let's not confuse it with anything else and get everyone on the same page.

- Five (5) presentations over two hours were given by researchers/pre-service teacher professors from six (6) Ontario universities summarizing the "Right to Read" submission made to the Ontario Human Rights Commission.
- The main point of the submission was in advocating for the commission to broaden the scope of the inquiry from 'reading' to 'literacies' which they defined much more broadly to include both print language and visual information in relation to cultural context.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

- They also made the point that how literacy is defined depends on where on the globe literacy is happening and who is doing the defining; noted that what constitutes literacy has changed over time (i.e., in the 1700s the ability to sign one's name was the hallmark of literacy).
- Affirmed that oral language is the foundation of all literacy:
"Talking is the main way children get to know the world, understand complex events, and encounter different perspectives...engaging in stimulating talk is the only way young children can expand their *own* language skills – learning words, putting sentences together, and practicing the 'rules' of talk, such as taking turns in conversation." (Resnick & Snow, 2009, p3)
- Asserted that there is no universal method to teach reading; what works for one student does not work for all students.
- Talked about the importance of developing an appetite to read for pleasure and that this is in relation to a broad range of texts including those that are visual.
- We were challenged to change the "dominant narrative" about people who struggle with reading by recognizing that disability is a social construct and warned to be aware of "*scientism*" which is the unwarranted application of narrow science to underscore the recurring message that a "one size fits all approach has never worked and will never work"
- Teacher pre-service training is good.

Recent Study: Do children learn to read better with discovery learning than with explicit instruction?

<https://www.technologynetworks.com/neuroscience/news/instruction-or-discovery-study-suggests-a-clear-winner-when-learning-to-read-346103>

(e) SEAC Attendance Recording and Membership

W. Rose

When she and the Vice-Chair met with SEMT they discussed increasing two-way participation between members and staff to share the knowledge everyone can bring to the table.

We all need to be in attendance to engage in these discussions. Most members attend regularly, but sometimes life events take priority or technology is less than reliable. Obligations for attendance are set out in O Reg. 464/97 and Grand Erie DSB Bylaw 8.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please notify the Recording Secretary. If you always provide notice but are about to miss the third successive meeting, please let W. Rose know so the Committee can pass a motion to excuse your absence for an extended period of time.

If you have not provided notice for your absence for three successive meetings, you will be deemed to have forfeited your seat at the table.

We want to encourage participation of all voices and going forward the Chair will track attendance to ensure a full membership is available.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

F-1 Standing Items W. Rose

(a) Policy/Procedures Out for Comment P. Curran

Members were advised on how to direct comments or concerns on the current policies and procedures available for comment.

Although not all policies are specific to special education, they will impact most staff and some students.

(b) Trustee Update – Current Board Activities T. Waldschmidt / R. Collver

Trustee Waldschmidt explained the board celebrated Black History month in February and noted Banbury public school students brought awareness through daily announcements, murals and other activities to individuals who had made a difference in the world. Teachers reported the students were very engaged and gained an understanding of the importance of these persons' contributions.

He noted that February 24 was pink shirt day to oppose bullying with the 2021 theme, "Lift Each Other Up"

Also commented on the Spotlight on a Grand Erie staff member, what lessons they learned along their journey and the meaning of teamwork to them.

Social Workers who help students cope and who help them find solutions were celebrated.

Trustee Collver shared the Ministry's initiative to target asymptomatic testing; working with a third-party vendor to ensure we have the capability to do this for our students.

She noted the budget is at the front of everyone's mind right now and Grand Erie is waiting for the Ministry to release the 2021-22 GSN (Grants for Student Needs). The budget survey is posted to our website; please take a few minutes to answer the questions.

The Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) survey for parents is only available until March 12, 2021. A favourable response does not indicate a commitment by the board, the survey is intended only to gauge interest in this learning format.

Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) is offering a virtual spring series of Speakers which can be found at this link: <https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/join-us-gepic-virtual-thursday-spring-speaker-series>

Trustee Collver also acknowledged the hard work by staff across Grand Erie to ensure student safety and well being while learning. The many lessons learned during this pandemic will be of benefit going forward.



Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC 20-07

Virtual MS Teams

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

- | | | |
|------------|--|----------------|
| G-1 | Information Items | W. Rose |
| (a) | None. | |
| H-1 | Community Updates | W. Rose |
| (a) | None. | |
| I-1 | Correspondence | W. Rose |
| (a) | LDAO SEAC Circular – March 2021 | W. Rose |
| | EQAO and the OSSLT information are included in this document as well as other items. | |
| (b) | Ltr – Hastings and Prince Edward DSB re COVID Vaccine Priority | W. Rose |
| | This letter was recently received. | |
| J-1 | Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning | W. Rose |
| (a) | SEAC Goal Setting | W. Rose |
| | Haven't sent survey monkey yet but thank you for the information and education. | |
| K-1 | Next Meeting | W. Rose |
| (a) | Thursday, April 22, 2021 MS Teams 6:00 p.m. | |
| L-1 | Adjournment | W. Rose |
| | Moved by: M. Gatopoulos | |
| | Seconded By: K. Jones | |
| | "THAT the SEAC 20-07 meeting of March 11, 2021 meeting be adjourned at 8:07 p.m." | |
| | CARRIED | |



Grand Erie District School Board

Education Centre: 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3
(519) 756-6301 | granderie.ca | info@granderie.ca

April 14, 2021

Hon. Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON
M5G 2K8

Dr. Cameron Montgomery, Chair
Education Quality and Accountability Office
Suite 1200, 2 Carlton Street
Toronto ON
M5B 2M9

Dear Minister Lecce and Dr. Montgomery:

Re: Assistive Technology for OSSLT and EQAO

I am writing as Chair of the Grand Erie District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee to voice our concern and complaint about the exclusion of certain assistive technology (AT) software from this year's OSSLT and grade nine EQAO field tests.

It is our understanding that EQAO hired a third-party vendor to create an assessment platform for both the OSSLT and grade nine EQAO field tests. This fully-digital platform operates in a lockdown browser, so that students writing the tests do not have access to other applications or websites for the duration of the test. Accordingly, students writing the tests will only have access to the AT that is made available in the lockdown browser.

It goes without saying that many students in our school board, and indeed across our province, rely on assistive technology to access and demonstrate mastery of their curriculum. In Grand Erie District School Board, the three most commonly used AT programs are Kurzweil 3000, Word Q and Dictate (in Microsoft Word). As of this writing, only Kurzweil 3000 can be used during the EQAO and OSSLT field tests. We understand that work is being done to try to also make Word Q available, but nothing has been confirmed. Sadly, we have been advised that Dictate will not be available for use during the tests.

This, regrettably, means that some students will not have the necessary accessible features to support their successful participation in these important tests. This outcome is clearly inequitable.

We are writing to urge you to take steps to correct this oversight and ensure equitable access to Ministry-mandated standardized tests for this and future school years. We look forward to hearing from you soon with a solution to this problem.

Yours truly,

Wendy Rose, Chair
Grand Erie DSB SEAC



Special Education

A Grand Erie Program

SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN ~~2019-~~ ~~20~~2020-21

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Standard 1: THE BOARD'S CONSULTATION PROCESS

The purpose of this standard is to provide details of the Board's consultation process to the Ministry and to the public.

The Grand Erie District School Board values collaboration with families and community members.

Consultation with the Special Education Advisory Committee

To meet Regulation 464/97, the Grand Erie District School Board has ensured that its Special Education Advisory Committee has participated in the Board's Annual Review, under Regulation 306 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario (1990), of its Special Education Plan. Involvement has included:

- ongoing discussion at SEAC meetings throughout the ~~2020-21~~ ~~2019-20~~ school year;
- opportunity for input through an online survey link on Grand Erie's website;
- invitation to attend Board's budget meeting dealing with special education budgets;
- opportunity to meet with the Board's Manager of Business Services, to ask questions and receive clarification regarding Special Education budgets;
- first draft of the Plan was received by SEAC on ~~April 22, 2021~~ ~~April 16, 2020~~ ~~2019~~; the final draft was received on ~~May 20, 2021~~ ~~May 14, 2020~~.

Descriptions of any majority or minority reports received from members of SEAC concerning the Board's approved plan are as follows:

- None Received

On ~~May 14, 2020~~ ~~May 20, 2021~~ the Special Education Advisory Committee passed the following motion: "THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee recommend the Grand Erie District School Board approve the ~~2020-21~~ ~~2019-20~~ Special Education Plan, dated ~~July 31, 2020~~ ~~July 31, 2021~~."

The motion was carried.

Public Consultation

Overview information about the Special Education Plan ~~and~~ a link to the Special Education Plan, ~~and a survey inviting public consultation about the plan~~ were promoted on the Grand Erie website throughout the school year. ~~A survey inviting public consultation about the plan was available through the summer of 2020 and from March until summer 2021. As well, a link to the survey was created when a community member read any standard. A link to the survey pops up whenever someone opens the Special Education Plan – it invites readers to fill out the survey after reading the Plan.~~

As a result of the Board's consultation with the community, Survey questions and responses are summarized below:

School (optional):

- ~~Hagersville Elementary~~ ~~Major Ballachey~~
- ~~Walsh~~ ~~Bloomsburg~~
- ~~King George~~ ~~Anonymous~~
- ~~Bellview~~ ~~James L Mitchener~~

Special Education Plan
July 2021

- ~~anonymous~~ Thompson Creek
- Russell Reid
- Paris District High School
- Russell Reid
- Walter Gretzky

2. What are the strengths of the special education plan?

- ~~Technology~~ It is good for students with special education and behavioural needs; not so good for kids who fall in the grey zone
- ~~It is laid out well and fairly easy to find information~~ Communication
- ~~None because my child doesn't get an EA~~ IEP consultation and review
- Learning is geared to individual student needs
- The ME program at Paris District High School is good but should be offered all day; students with disabilities shouldn't be forced into mainstream classes
- Education is geared to the student
- Comfortable learning from home (referring to virtual learning)

3. What is still needed in the special education plan?

- ~~A plan for resource withdrawal to meet student needs~~ Needs more focus on special needs students who do not have Autism
- ~~Reference to referral management and wait times~~ Issues around student with Autism having to wear a mask
- ~~Must bring back evidence-based reading interventions like Empower for students with learning disabilities~~
- Music therapy needs to be included in the Plan
- Need to welcome parental input to revise the IEP at any time rather than set dates; important changes must be made in a timely fashion
- ~~More EAs to be able to help and more equipment~~ More in class help is needed
- ~~Some parts are very wordy and could be simplified a bit~~ More full-time special education classes
- Virtual learning needs to be more interactive

4. Does this plan help? Why or why not?

- ~~If the school had enough funding to provide the assistance our child would need, then it may work~~
- Yes, it answers a lot of questions

5. How might we best deliver services while being mindful of budget limitations?

- I don't know. I don't know your budget.
- ~~Be transparent in allocation of monies to provide special education~~ Don't make students with Autism wear masks
- ~~Fundraise for the right to read and raise funds to support the Empower program~~ Keeping kids safe is key
- ~~Have a special education class — we had one and my child was doing well in it, then they closed it and moved him into a class with a shared EA and how he has regressed~~ IEPs must be monitored to ensure implementation is occurring
- ~~More money spent on programs at the classroom level and less spent on administration~~ School boards were given additional money. Spend it on additional in-class help for students.
- Provide information about schools that have better full-time programming for students with developmental disabilities
- Budget cutbacks hurt the success of our students

Submit

~~This year respondents had the opportunity to identify their school so that follow up could occur if needed.~~

Implementation of a renewed model of special education supports and services ~~continued took place~~ in the ~~2020-21 2019-20~~ school year. In the renewed model:

- There was a focus on fulsome implementation of Tier 1, in-classroom or close-to-the classroom strategies and supports
- Learning Resource Teachers took on a lead role of supporting the knowledge and instructional capacity of all educators in the school in the area of Special Education
- Learning Resource Teachers supported the IEP development and implementation through coaching supports for students in the Virtual Learning Academy
- The classroom teachers designed and implemented the student's program with the support of the Learning Resource Teacher, in the classroom (in-person and virtual learning)
- In School Team processes were ~~continued established~~ in all schools
- Dedicated multi-disciplinary teams were provided schools to attend resource team meetings
- ~~Shifts/Changes in System and Professional Support Staff roles occurred to align with this renewed focus~~
- Continued focus on the role of the Educational Assistant- goals for independence for students, how the EA is adding value to teacher programming

Further training for Learning Resource Teachers on the renewed model was significantly impacted inhibited by COVID-19 and virtual learning.

Grand Erie's Achievement Plan – Success for Every Student

The focus in the area of special services is how system staff support school staff to promote student learning and achievement.

1. How the special education system team guides and supports schools to learn about and implement effective differentiated instruction and assessment;
- ~~2. How the school team/resource team process is used as a multi-disciplinary team to support school administrators and teachers to identify student strengths and needs and to provide strategies such as responsive and differentiated classroom instruction and assessment in order to meet these strengths and needs; and~~
- ~~3.2.~~ How wrap around supports to address a variety of student need that go beyond solely academic need are provided to students in order to decrease barriers to well-being and achievement.

Internal and External Reviews of Existing Special Education Programs and Services

There were no formal internal and external reviews of existing special education programs and services.

However, as a result of consultations with and input from Grand Erie's SEAC, school administrators and senior administration, the following changes to special education programs and service delivery will occur in the 2021-22~~0-21~~ school year:

- Learning Resource Teachers in select schools will work collaboratively with Child and Youth Workers to support the implementation of evidence-based social emotional learning programs
- Gifted and Enriched programming will be supported by a Virtual Mode Gifted Learning Resource Teacher
- Programming in Lifeskills, Intensive Support – ASD and Intensive Support – MH self-contained classrooms in both elementary and secondary will be derived from Grand Erie's Alternative Curriculum Planner
- Implementation and coaching system support for teachers of Lifeskills, Intensive Support – ASD and Intensive Support – MH classrooms will occur in both the elementary and secondary panels
- ~~Entry to self contained programs for students with mild intellectual disabilities will be considered in their grade 7 year~~
- ~~Placement in behaviour support~~

Mental Health Strategy

Developed a 2019-2020 Action Plan of priorities, key activities and indicators of success.

Held a meeting during the school year with the Grand Erie Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Attended Child & Youth Planning meetings with community agencies.

With the move to distance learning, met regularly with the Directors of REACH and Woodview Child & Youth Mental Health Services to ensure regular and up-to-date communication.

Provided students with opportunities for sequenced and grade-appropriate social-emotional learning.

- ~~Collaborated with classroom teachers and Learning Resource Teachers in the delivery of programs and curriculum related to social-emotional learning, self-regulation, healthy relationships and mental health promotion and prevention.~~
- ~~For the 2019-2020 school year, 90% of elementary schools received grade appropriate social-emotional, self-regulation and/or healthy relationships programs.~~

~~For the 2019-2020 school year, 50% of secondary schools received social emotional and/or healthy relationships programs.~~

- During the spring of 2020, Child and Youth Workers (CYWs) created 10 weekly calendars that promoted self-care and self-regulation
- Child and Youth Workers CYWs were part of In-School Teams, where they provided advice, education and resources on social-emotional learning, self-regulation, healthy relationships and mental health awareness.

Supported the use of effective crisis response and suicide prevention protocols.

- ~~The Suicide Risk Protocol was reviewed at Resource Team Meetings, and SafeTALK training was delivered to elementary Learning Resource Teachers.~~
- Through staff meetings and consultations, Social Workers (SW) consistently used the Grand Erie Safety Plan, assessment and tracking form.
- Where appropriate, SWs completed referrals to Mental Health & Addiction Nurses.
- CYW and SWs supported traumatic events and completed Violent Threat Risk Assessments
- As part of moving into distance learning, SWs began Wellness Checks in the spring of 2020.
- Wellness Checks by SWs were continued during the months of July and August and were made available to students attending summer camp and Camp Sail.
- 30 elementary and 17 secondary students received Wellness Checks during the summer of 2020.

Supported the creation of resources for mental health promotion and prevention.

- Conquering Stress resources available were made available in digital and binder format.
- Developed a bank of evidence-informed and/or evidence-based programs for delivery in classrooms.
- ~~Worked with Safe Schools in the delivery of bullying prevention and healthy relationship programs and resources.~~

Equipped and built capacity of school mental health professionals.

- Trained staff in evidence-based structured psychotherapy (Brief Interventions for School Counsellors and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Virtual Counselling) for to ensure effective counselling for students.
- Trained staff in trauma-informed care and practices, and Shanker & Hopkins Self-Reg training.

Established and maintained access to, through and from mental health agencies and hospital services.

- Maintained SO108 Partnerships.
- Attended regular meetings with community mental health agencies, Health Unit and McMaster Hospital.
- Managed and monitored Mental Health & Addictions Nurses referrals.

The following principles guide the implementation of the Child and Youth Mental Health Strategy in Grand Erie:

1. Achievement is fundamentally connected with student mental health and well-being.
2. Safe and inclusive school cultures will allow students to flourish.
3. Engagement among students, parents, staff and community is essential.
4. Commitment to ongoing learning for all is critical.
5. Evidence-based/informed practices will guide interventions to support students' mental health and well-being.

6. Align and coordinate efforts with community partners to maximize efficiency of resources and strengthen outcomes for students.
7. The unique strengths and needs of each school community will be honoured to ensure support is flexible and responsive.

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 the Board's philosophy and service delivery model for the provision of special education programs and services.

The Special Education Plan of Grand Erie 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.

Vision for Special Education

Special Education Services and Programs in Grand Erie are consistent with the Board's mission "Success for Every Student" and are provided to allow every student to benefit from the public education system. Special Education Programs are delivered in the most enabling environment permitting the students the greatest access to their full potential. Schools and the parents/guardians work with resource staff and other involved agencies, using all available information, to develop an understanding of each child's strengths and needs to program in the most appropriate manner.

In Grand Erie the ultimate goal is to provide an inclusive environment for students in whatever classroom and school they are educated. "Inclusion is a way of thinking, a way of being, and a way of making decisions about helping everyone belong." (Causton-Theoharis, Julie N. The Golden Rule of Providing Support in Inclusive Classrooms: Support Others as You Would Wish to Be Supported - Teaching Exceptional Children, Vol. 42, No. 2, pp. 36-43. Copyright 2009, CEC). In inclusive classrooms, the principles of universal design for learning and differentiated instruction and assessment are implemented. Special education programs and services within Grand Erie are guided by the following eight principles, which are included in board policy P1-Special Education Guiding 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 and well-being needs of all students.
5. Resources are provided to support students to become as independent as possible in reaching their educational goals.
6. The classroom educators ~~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 partners with the classroom educators ~~a support to the classroom teacher and early childhood educator~~ by coaching, co-teaching and co-learning in order to address the strengths and needs of the students.
7. Students are educated in their community schools if this is the most re 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.

Special Education Plan
July 2021

https://granderie.ca/application/files/6315/0102/0454/P1_Special_Education_Guiding_Principles.pdf

Guiding Principles in Special Education

~~1. All students can succeed. Success looks different for different students.~~

~~In Grand Erie we believe that all students can succeed when provided with high expectations for learning and achievement and the necessary accommodations and/or modifications in their individualized educational program. Programs are developed to challenge students to achieve at a greater level, while building in regular opportunities for success. Student success is measured by their achievement of the goals outlined in their Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.).~~

~~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.~~

~~Our mission is to nurture and develop the potential of all students by providing meaningful learning opportunities. Educational program delivery occurs within a group of peers to facilitate the development of the whole child. We believe that using a tiered approach to the identification of learning needs in the classrooms provides assessment and instruction that are responsive to student needs. Supports are organized and offered based on student need. In Tier 1, students meet their educational goals in a whole class setting, with supports provided. In Tier 2, students require small group support in order to meet their educational goals. In Tier 3, students may require an alternative setting or individualized support in order to meet with success. When individualized support is required, it is time limited and every effort is made to support the student to move to small group or whole class instruction as soon as possible. Very few students require Tier 3 support. We believe that the education of every child is the collective responsibility of every adult within a school community.~~

~~Tiered Intervention~~

~~3. Students learn differently and have different educational goals. Educators respond to these differences when planning and delivering programs.~~

~~Schools within Grand Erie represent diverse communities. Programs are developed and implemented to meet local needs within the framework of provincial education requirements. This includes identifying and meeting individual student needs within the context of group learning.~~

~~Universal design and differentiated instruction are an effective means of meeting the learning needs of any group of students. We believe that all classrooms include students with a range of talents and abilities and that our classroom learning environments must be accessible to all. Classroom physical and learning environments can be made accessible to all learners by applying the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL encourages educators to reflect on the unique nature of each learner and to accommodate for differences, thereby creating learning experiences that suit individual learners and maximize their ability to progress in the context of group learning.~~

~~We know that our students differ significantly in their strengths, interests, learning styles and readiness to learn, therefore we believe it is necessary to adapt, or differentiate, instruction and assessment in order to suit these differing characteristics.~~

~~For students who require intense support to achieve learning goals, schools have access to a variety of specialized supports to identify, understand and meet these special needs with a view to expanding the range of special needs that can be met within each community school.~~

~~Universal Design for Learning~~

Differentiated Instruction

~~4. The goal for all schools is to create environments that consider and include the learning needs of all students.~~

~~The culture of the school is essential in fostering an attitude of inclusion and the school principal takes the lead in building an inclusive school culture. An inclusive culture celebrates diversity by creating an infrastructure that balances group and individual needs. It supports school staff in the development of new skills and invites students and their parents to actively participate in the educational process.~~

~~An attitude of inclusion recognizes and values the tiered approach to the provision of special education programs and services. While consultation with specialized personnel may help the regular classroom teacher and early childhood educator deliver an appropriate program for some students, others require more intensive supports which may include placement in a self-contained program. Deciding when a self-contained placement may be appropriate is a consultative process which honours the voices of parents, school staff, system special education support staff and the student, as appropriate. In most cases it must be demonstrated that the student has had adequate opportunity to access program in a regular classroom setting and that the regular classroom is not meeting the individual needs of the student before a self-contained classroom placement is considered.~~

~~An attitude of inclusion ensures that students in self-contained classes are welcomed and integrated into their school communities. Inclusion can occur during both instructional and non-instructional time and is based on providing the optimum experience for the student to meet with success in the integrated setting.~~

~~5.— Resources are provided to support students to become independent in reaching their educational goals.~~

~~While education supports the special learning needs of students, it does not treat children for medical, mental health and social disorders or disease. Wherever possible, we seek to work co-operatively with community agencies to develop the most beneficial pathway to treatment for students, if this is required. In the school setting, supports to promote student well being are implemented.~~

~~6.— The classroom teacher and early childhood educator are the primary supports 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.~~

~~Human resource supports are organized to support the classroom teacher and early childhood educator, so that students can remain in their community schools for as long as it is in their best educational interests.~~

~~School resources, including the expertise of the Learning Resource Teacher, Principal and regular classroom teacher and early childhood educator, are the primary means by which special education needs are identified and addressed. The regular classroom teacher and early childhood educator play a central role in the process of identifying special needs, coordinating the additional supports to build a better understanding of an individual student and developing an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) to address these needs. Our respect for the regular classroom teacher and early childhood educator is reflected in the allocation of resources to develop their skills on an on-going basis. Effective special educational programming requires a knowledge of specific exceptionalities, provincial curriculum standards and teaching, learning and assessment methods. The development of this broad range of skills for all teachers and early childhood educators, must be supported by in-service, coaching materials and planning resources that target these areas.~~

~~At the school level, special education support for the classroom teacher and early childhood educator will be provided by the Learning Resource Teacher. To the greatest extent possible, this support should be delivered within the classroom setting.~~

~~In some situations, the support of an Educational Assistant is required to meet the medical and/or safety needs of students at school. Educational Assistants are valued members of the student's support team, providing shared support to students. This means that the Educational Assistant is not allocated solely to one child and the movement of Educational Assistants at regular intervals is encouraged. It is in this way that schools work to minimize the dependency that can be created by an over-reliance on one individual staff member or one level of service.~~

~~System special education support staff build the capacity of schools to meet the broad range of student special education needs. Specialized supports within Grand Erie, including the services of the Learning Resource Teacher, Teacher Consultants—Special Education and system non-teaching staff—Attendance Counsellors, Behaviour Counsellors, Child and Youth Workers, Psychological Services, Social Work and Speech Language Pathologists, Communicative Disorders Assistants and Lead Educational Assistants—are accessed through the School Resource Team.~~

~~It is recognized that the success of special education programs depends on the quality of the staff delivering the program. Selection of suitable, qualified personnel is as important as on-going training.~~

~~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.~~

~~Early identification of learning needs and programming to address them is part of classroom planning for all students. Where significant academic challenges persist, special education services, including access to self-contained placements, may be appropriate.~~

~~If a student's needs can be met in a regular classroom with accommodations and modifications, placement should be in a regular classroom in the home school.~~

~~Self-contained class placements are a more defined environment within the education system. The individual needs of some students with specific exceptionalities are such that placement within a self-contained class can also be the most enabling. Programs in self-contained settings will be *alternative* to a regular class program. Alternative programming addresses various aspects of student need that are not specifically represented in the Ontario curriculum. These may include social skills, self-help skills, life skills, self-advocacy skills, self-regulation skills and the learning of new behaviours. Alternative curriculum expectations must be related to the student's exceptionality and individualized according to the student's needs.~~

~~Self-contained placements are offered within Grand Erie recognizing that learning needs and long-term educational outcomes vary based on student exceptionality. For some exceptionalities, placements offer time-limited but intensive support in order to address specific, identified needs that will enable students to achieve educational goals within their home school. For example, a student with a learning disability learns how to use technology to bypass written language difficulties, or a student with behavioural needs develops the self-regulation skills required for success in a regular classroom.~~

~~When a student's capacity to manage the demands of a regular classroom will likely decrease from grade to grade due to their developmental needs, placement in a self-contained program should be delayed until the student's needs are such that an alternative to regular program is in their best interests. For example, a student with a developmental disability then continues to learn in the context of a life skills program that is an alternative to the Ontario curriculum. Similarly, gifted students who are identified formally will receive effective programming within the regular classroom but could access self-contained gifted classroom if their individual needs demonstrate this is the most appropriate placement to meet these needs. Access to any alternative programs must be based on assessment data and supported by the School and Resource Team.~~

~~Educational implications of participation in self-contained programs should be discussed with the parents and students through the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (I.P.R.C.) planning process, as well as part of Individual Educational Plan (I.E.P.) development, Annual Goal setting and Transition Planning. If the long term goal for a student is the completion of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or Ontario Secondary School Certificate of Achievement, self-contained class placement must be time limited to enable the development of the non-academic skills required for success in regular classes (i.e. independent work completion and goal setting, time management, organization, peer relationships, planning etc.). If the long term goal for a student is the completion of a Certificate of Accomplishment, then opportunity for continued placement until June the year the student turns the age of 21 must be ensured.~~

~~8. Fairness is not sameness. Students are provided with resources and supports that will assist them to become independent in reaching their educational goals.~~

~~Students need to be provided with programs and supports in an equitable manner. Equitable does not mean equal treatment for all students. Students will receive programs and support based on assessment data that will help them to meet with success in their individualized programs. There are many ways that program supports and services are provided to students that vary from student to student but decrease the barriers faced by those students in meeting with success.~~

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~~For example, some students may require technology use in a whole class setting, other students may require the support of an Educational Assistant working in a small group setting, and others may require placement in a self-contained classroom with a smaller number of students and a focus on alternative learning goals. Other students may require changes to the content, delivery and assessment of their programs as outlined by their classroom teachers in their Individual Education Plans.~~

Special Education Delivery of Supports and Services System

Grand Erie's ~~Special Education delivery of supports and services system~~ includes a continuum of Special Education programs and services. Programs and services provided are based upon the needs of the student. The continuum includes:

- Regular classroom with support, ~~differentiated instruction and assessment and accommodations and/or modifications.~~ The curriculum, method of presentation, instructional strategies and/or classroom environments may be areas that are ~~differentiated to meet student strength and needs.~~ ~~accommodated or modified.~~
- Self-contained special education classrooms. Educational programs and services are provided for part (partially integrated) or all (fully self-contained) of the school day in the self-contained classroom setting.
- ~~Wrap-around supports and services.~~ ~~Programs in the student's home school~~

Accessing Special Services

Students may demonstrate educational ~~strengths and~~ needs in a variety of ways. ~~Educator~~Teacher observation and parent/guardian input are the most common sources through which the individual learning ~~needs profile~~ of a student ~~is~~are first identified. When a student ~~strength or~~ need is identified it can be addressed at team meetings, where support services can be offered if appropriate.

School Team

School team plays a significant role in helping classroom ~~educator~~teachers address difficulties that a student may be experiencing in the classroom prior to, and following, formal assessment and identification. (Appendix B)

When a student demonstrates different leaning ~~strengths and~~ needs, the teacher works with the parent/guardian and tries a variety of strategies and approaches with the student. The teacher uses available diagnostic tools to assess the student and may discuss the situation with **School Team**. Membership on the **School Team** includes the Principal (or designate), the Learning Resource Teacher (LRT) and the referring teacher(s) and may include other school staff. The school-based Child and Youth Worker ~~and the school Social Worker~~ may also be a member of the **School Team**. The parent/guardian must be made aware that their child will be discussed at School Team and consent to their child being discussed at School Team. The parent/guardian may be invited to attend the School Team meeting. Ongoing contact with the parent/guardian is important to develop an understanding of the child's strengths and needs.

At the **School Team** meeting, a review of strategies already implemented and suggestions of further Tier 1 strategies and supports will be discussed.

A record of ~~strategies and supports discussed at decisions of~~ the **School Team** is kept in the **Student Profile** available through the Learner Intervention Tracking for Excellence (LITE) system. (Appendix C). Referral to the **Resource Team** occurs when the **School Team** wishes to discuss additional strategies and options that move beyond Tier 1 strategies and supports.

Resource Team

Membership on the *Resource Team* shall include the *School Team (other than the classroom educator unless required)*, the area Teacher Consultant-Special Education and a dedicated multi-disciplinary system support team. The multi-disciplinary system team may include psychology staff, social workers, child and youth workers, behaviour counsellors, board certified behaviour analysts, speech-language pathologists, communicative disorders assistants, and/or attendance counsellors. The parent/guardian may be invited to provide input on their child's progress or to attend the meetings. They shall be informed of the date, time, purpose and staff invited prior to the meeting, and any results of these meetings that affect the programming for their child will be communicated. The *Resource Team* will consider additional Tier 1, 2 or 3 strategies and may recommend further assessment or other interventions. The *Resource Team* may recommend to the Principal referral of the student to an Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

If a formal assessment is recommended, the Principal will make the referral to the appropriate student support staff through the Learner Intervention Tracking for Excellence (LITE) system. Student Support Staff will proceed with the informed consent steps with the parent/guardian before they proceed with the case. The exception to this is referral to Attendance Counsellors, which takes place based on Ministry requirements and does not require parent/guardian consent.

Human Resource Support Services

Special education supports for students, beyond classroom educator teacher direct intervention, is provided at the school level and at the system level.

School Level

- ***Learning Resource Teachers***

Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs) work in the school to support the programs offered to students with special needs. LRTs work collaboratively with the classroom teacher to coach, co-teach and co-learn. LRTs offer suggestions and strategies to support implementation of programs to meet the learning and well-being needs of students in the regular classroom or self-contained classroom settings. LRTs work directly with students when withdrawing them to complete diagnostic assessments. LRTs may also work as a liaison between school and home when setting up school and resource team meeting agendas. LRTs, under the direction of the school principal, are responsible for setting up school level IPRC (Identification, Placement and Review Committee) meetings. In 2019-20 the Learning Resource Teacher will take on a lead role of supporting the knowledge about and instructional capacity of all educators in the school in the area of special education. The classroom teachers will design and implement the student's program with the support of the Learning Resource Teacher, in the classroom

- ***Educational Assistants***

In Grand Erie there are different three types of Educational Assistant (EA) support allocated to schools. —school-based EAs, Temporary EAs, and Transitional EAs.

School-based EAs are assigned to meet the safety needs (both health and behavioural) of students. EAs support the student by addressing the safety needs so that they can access their educational program. The needs of each student are described in the Individual Education Plan. EAs are assigned based on priorities in the school district and may be re-allocated at any time throughout the school year to address local pressures and priority situations.

Temporary EAs are assigned to meet the safety needs (both health and behavioural) of students new to a school or classroom. The support is temporary, allowing for a trained individual to assist at the school level, ascertaining if more permanent support is required.

~~Transitional EAs provide increased support for significant transitions for students. Transitional EAs support the implementation of comprehensive Behaviour or Safety plans and stabilization support during an assessment period/while behaviour or safety plan are being developed in escalated situations. Transitional EAs allow for a trained individual to assist at the school level, ascertaining if more permanent support is needed, and to follow through with a release of responsibility model to existing school staff.~~

System Level

- ***Program Coordinators (Curriculum, Special Education and Applied Behavioural Analysis)***
Program Coordinators may be a resource for programming for a student with individual needs. They can assist with defining differentiated strategies and evidence-based resources and/or approaches, which allow the child to continue successfully in the regular program.
- ***Teacher Consultants (Curriculum and Special Education)***
Teacher Consultants-Special Education can be a valuable resource to a school. They can offer strategies, resources, referrals to outside agency supports, and connections to other teachers who are facing similar issues. They can also assist the Principal in the formal IPRC process, if required.
- ***Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Teacher Technicians***
Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Teacher Technicians support students ~~with exceptional needs~~ that require the use of SEA technology and students that are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- ***Lead Educational Assistants***
Lead Educational Assistants are assigned to support programming for classroom teachers and educational assistants to meet the needs of specialized populations of students. Their support is generally working directly with students, but sometimes the Lead EA will support staff members through modelling and coaching supports that may best meet the needs of a student. In Grand Erie Lead Educational Assistants support students who have Specialized Equipment Amount (SEA) technology, students with Autism, and students with complex special education needs
- ***Complex Behaviour Intervention Team (CBIT)***
The CBIT becomes involved with Tier 3, specific student referrals. When a student's challenging behaviour continues to be a significant concern despite involvement of many system level supports, the CBIT may become involved. To be considered for the CBIT, the student's challenging behaviours must be frequent or intense enough to pose a safety risk to themselves, staff or other students. A student with complex needs may, or may not, have a diagnosis or be identified as an exceptional student.
- ***Student Support Services***
Assessment services, speech-language services, psychological, behavioural, and social are among the other professional services available within the Board

Student Support Services are organized to provide four types of support:

- ***Communication Services*** will identify needs and provide programming suggestions for speech, articulation, language, augmentative communication and fluency disorders. Speech-Language Pathologists and Communicative Disorders Assistants provide Speech-Language support services.
- ***Behavioural Services*** will provide prescriptive plans and programming assistance for behavioural, psychological, emotional, social and attendance issues. Behaviour Counsellors, Board Certified Behaviour Analysts and Attendance Counsellors provide behavioural support services.

- ***Psychological Services*** will do formal assessments and provide programming assistance for students with gaps between aptitude and achievement. Psychological Associates and Psychological Consultants provide psychological services support.
- ***Counselling Services*** will serve to provide counselling to students and support to the parents/guardians in times of social or emotional distress. Counselling services also provides support to teachers in evidence-based whole classroom programs that deal with self-regulation, social-emotional skills and healthy relationships. Counselling services are provided by Social Workers and evidence-based whole classroom/small-group program supports are provided by Child and Youth Workers.
- ***Outside Services***
 When the programming needs of the student exceed the services available within the Board, staff may work in cooperation with families to support a referral to an outside agency. The parent/guardian has the final decision regarding any referrals to outside agencies.
- ***Physical Needs***
 An accessible school in each area may be designated as the "Home School" for students with needs for extensive physical accommodations.

Standard 3: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the standard is to provide the public with information on roles and responsibilities in the area of Special Education.

The Ministry of Education defines roles and responsibilities in elementary and secondary education in several key areas:

- legislative and policy framework
- funding
- school system management
- programs and curriculum

It is important that all involved in Special Education understand their roles and responsibilities, which are outlined below:

The Ministry of Education

- defines, through the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda, the legal obligations of School Boards regarding the provision of Special Education Programs and Services, and prescribes the categories and definitions of exceptionality;
- ensures that School Boards provide Special Education Programs and Services for their exceptional pupils;
- establishes the funding for Special Education through the structure of the funding model. The model consists of the Foundation Grant, the Special Education Grant, and other special purpose grants;
- requires School Boards to report on their expenditures for Special Education;
- sets province-wide standards for curriculum and reporting of achievement;
- requires School Boards to maintain Special Education Plans, review them annually, and submit amendments to the Ministry;
- requires School Boards to establish Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC's);
- establishes Special Education Tribunals to hear disputes between parent/guardians and School Boards regarding the identification and placement of exceptional pupils;
- establishes a Provincial Advisory Council on Special Education to advise the Minister of Education on matters related to Special Education Programs and Services;
- operates Provincial and Demonstration Schools for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind, or who have severe learning disabilities.

The Grand Erie District School Board

- establishes School Board Policy and Practices that comply with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- monitors school compliance with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- requires staff to comply with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- provides appropriately qualified staff to provide programs and services for the exceptional pupils of the Board;
- obtains the appropriate funding and reports on the expenditures for Special Education;
- develops and maintains a Special Education Plan that is amended from time to time to meet the current needs of the exceptional pupils of the Board;

- reviews the Plan annually in accordance with Regulation 306.
- Every two years prepares and approves a report on the special education programs and special education services provided by the board and submits it to the Ministry of Education;
- provides statistical reports to the Ministry as required and as requested;
- prepares a parent/guardian guide to provide information about Special Education programs, services, and procedures;
- establishes one or more IPRC's to identify exceptional pupils and determine appropriate placements for them;
- establishes a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC);
- provides professional development to Special Education staff.

The Special Education Advisory Committee:

- makes recommendations to the Board with respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of Special Education Programs and Services for exceptional pupils of the Board;
- participates in the Board's annual review of its Special Education Plan;
- participates in the Board's annual budget process as it relates to Special Education;
- reviews the financial statements of the Board as they relate to Special Education;
- provides information to parents, as requested

The School Principal:

- carries out duties as outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and policy/ program memoranda, and through Board policies;
- communicates Ministry of Education and School Board expectations to staff;
- ensures that appropriately qualified staff are assigned to teach Special Education classes;
- communicates Board Policies and Procedures about Special Education to staff, students, and parent/guardians;
- ensures that the identification and placement of exceptional pupils, through an IPRC, is done according to the procedures outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and Board policies;
- consults with the parent/guardian and with School Board staff to determine the most appropriate program for exceptional pupils;
- ensures the development, implementation, and review of a student's IEP, including a transition plan, according to provincial requirements;
- ensures that the parent/guardian is consulted in the development of their child's IEP and that they are provided with a copy of the IEP;
- ensures the delivery of the program as set out in the IEP;
- ensures that appropriate assessments are requested, if necessary, and that parent/guardian consent is obtained.

The Teacher:

- carries out duties as outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and policy/ program memoranda;
- follows Board Policies and Procedures regarding Special Education;
- maintains up-to-date knowledge of Special Education practices;
- works with Special Education staff and the parent/guardian to develop the IEP for an exceptional pupil;
- provides the program for the exceptional pupil in the regular class, as outlined in the IEP;
- communicates the student's progress to the parent/guardian;

- in consultation with the parent/guardian, works with other School Board staff to review and update the student's IEP.

The Special Education Teacher, in addition to the responsibilities listed above under "The Teacher":

- holds qualifications, in accordance with Regulation 298, to teach Special Education;
- monitors the student's progress with reference to the IEP and modifies the program as necessary, in collaboration with the classroom teacher;
- assists in providing educational assessments for exceptional pupils.

The Parent/Guardian:

- becomes familiar with and informed about Board Policies and Procedures in areas that affect their child;
- participates in IPRC's, parent/guardian-teacher conferences, and other relevant school activities;
- participates in the development of the IEP;
- becomes acquainted with the school staff working with the student;
- supports the student at home;
- works with the School Principal and teachers to solve problems;
- is responsible for the student's attendance at school.

The Student:

- complies with the requirements as outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- complies with Board Policies and Procedures;
- participates in the IPRC, the parent-teacher conferences, and other activities, as appropriate.

Standard 4: EARLY IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's early identification procedures and intervention strategies to the ministry and the public.

Grand Erie strongly supports an early identification and intervention process for students with special education needs. For students in kindergarten or the early primary grades, early identification usually refers to the recognition of particular strengths, abilities, and needs, rather than a **formal** identification process through an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC), although identification can happen at any age. Early identification and intervention includes assessment, monitoring, instruction, intervention, and community support as needed. Many of the early identification steps will be taken for all students – some specific interventions will be required for individual students as learning needs are noted. The purpose of early identification is to determine each child's strengths and learning needs. Movement toward an IPRC and formal identification is dependent upon sufficient time at school to first track the success/lack of success with attempted interventions and determine if an educational identification is required.

Grand Erie complies with the *Ministry Policy/Program Memorandum # 11 (1982)* which states: These procedures are part of a continuous assessment and program planning process which should be initiated when a child is first enrolled in school or no later than the beginning of a program of studies immediately following Kindergarten and should continue, ongoing, throughout a child's school life for students at all ability levels.

Guiding Principles that are critical to the success of the entry-to-school planning process:

- A Focus on the Whole Child and the Family
- Collaboration
- Sensitivity to Diversity
- Clear Definitions
- Responsiveness (Planning Entry to School: *A Resource Guide* Ministry of Education 2005)

The Role of the Educator Team (teacher and designated early child educator)	The Role of the Parent/Guardian
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To lead a Spring Information session for the parents/guardians of children who will enter Kindergarten in the Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To attend a Spring Information session for the child who will enter Kindergarten in the Fall
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To invite children to participate in a Spring orientation visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure the child participates in a Spring orientation visit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To attend an information sharing case conference with parents and community partners in late Spring, as needed• To review and store community agency reports highlighting student strengths and needs, if one is shared	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To attend an information sharing case conference if requested
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To collect significant information that will help the teacher <u>educator team</u> get to know and understand the child• To listen to the parent/guardian share information about their child	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide information that will help the teacher get to know the child, which may include permission for the release of information from outside community agencies

The Role of the Educator Team (cont.) (teacher and designated early child educator)	The Role of the Parent/Guardian (cont.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the parent/guardian with the <i>Kindergarten Home Connection Form</i> (Appendix D) for completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To complete the <i>Kindergarten Home Connection Form</i> (Appendix D)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor student development, learning abilities, and needs while collecting evidence of learning over time to demonstrate achievement of expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To dialogue with the teacher on student development, learning abilities, and needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To “provide parents with an overview of initial observations of their child’s learning in relation to the overall expectations in the Kindergarten Program with information about appropriate next steps to further the child’s learning” (Growing Success, Kindergarten Addendum, pg. 12) To send home a Kindergarten Communication of Learning: Initial Observations mid to late November followed by parent visits where they can observe and share information To complete a written anecdotal Kindergarten Communication of Learning and provide it in February and June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To attend the structured parent/guardian observations visit and parent interviews/student-led conferences focused on the child’s portfolio (November-December) To read the Kindergarten Communication of Learning, providing follow-up where needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement strategies of intervention and work with all support personnel as needed to address observed needs of the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To dialogue with the teacher on student development, learning abilities, and needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To communicate with parents any concerns as they arise, with suggestions about appropriate resources and personnel for support as needed Refer to School Team observed needs of the child for speech and language, cognitive and behavioural assessments, occupational, and/or physiotherapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be regularly involved in decisions about the education of their child To access available community agencies that can assist with their child’s growth and development

PLEASE NOTE: If a child enters school for the first time in Grade 1 or later, and the teacher has a concern about the child’s progress, the parent/guardian should be informed, and the teacher utilizes strategies to resolve the concern. If concern remains refer to School Team Process. (Appendix B)

Parents play an important role in their children’s learning. Studies show that children perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education. By becoming familiar with the Kindergarten program, parents can better appreciate the value of play-based learning and learn about the attitudes, skills, and strategies that their children are developing. This awareness will enhance parents’ ability to discuss their children’s learning with them, to communicate with educators, and to ask relevant questions about their children’s development. Knowledge of the program will also help parents understand their children’s growth in learning and will enhance their ability to work with educators to improve their children’s learning and development. (The Kindergarten Program 2016.)

The Parent's Role

draft

~~Parents play an important role in their children's learning. Studies show that children perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education. By becoming familiar with the Kindergarten program, parents can better appreciate the value of play based learning and learn about the attitudes, skills, and strategies that their children are developing. This awareness will enhance parents' ability to discuss their children's learning with them, to communicate with educators, and to ask relevant questions about their children's development. Knowledge of the program will also help parents understand their children's growth in learning and will enhance their ability to work with educators to improve their children's learning and development. (The Kindergarten Program 2016.)~~

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Early and Ongoing Identification and Intervention Process for Referring a Student for an Assessment

Classroom Teacher's first steps:

- Complete an OSR search – Complete a Student Profile documenting background and attempted strategies
- Inform parent about any concerns regarding child's progress
- Attempt remedial strategies (Class Act, Sound Bites, Lexia, etc.)
- Consult with previous classroom teachers, LRT, administrator and parent/guardian
- Provide on-going assessment within the classroom: work samples, portfolios, teacher-made tests, running records, observations, Brigance, DRA, Benchmark Reading Assessment, Kindergarten Cumulative Assessment Portfolio (KSCAP)

The parent/guardian will be informed of the School Team process and opportunities to be involved. (Appendix B). With verbal parental consent, the School Team (classroom teacher, LRT, administrator, Child and Youth Worker) meet to discuss student's strengths and needs, while determining next steps. Parent/guardian will be informed of the next steps and recommendations from the School Team. School Team process may be repeated if concern is unresolved.

School Team determines that appropriate strategies are in place. The teacher will inform parents about the results of the meeting and will continue to monitor progress in the classroom.

School Team recommends additional strategies and determines that on-going monitoring is required. The teacher will inform parents about the results of the meeting. The School Team may reconvene at a later date to further discuss next steps.

School Team determines that further assessment and intervention is required. A timeline for the next steps is established, with follow up plan. Inform parents/guardians of next steps for consent.

Possible next steps may include, some or all of these assessments, with informed and/or written consent from the parent/guardian;

- LRT may complete an Academic Achievement Battery (AAB), or another educational assessment to provide recommendations and strategies to be implemented by school personnel
- A referral to the family physician may be suggested to identify physiological factors interfering with learning.
- Parents may wish to undertake private assessments (eg. psychologist, speech)

When all in-school supports have been exhausted, the parent/guardian is informed that their child is being referred to the Resource Team, with parent/guardian consent. Upon referral to the Resource Team (see Appendix B), additional assessments may be required or advisable.

Possible next steps from the Resource Team may occur, with informed and/or written consent from the parent/guardian;

- Make recommendations for programs or services and establish a date to review progress
- A Psycho-Educational assessment by qualified personnel
- Professionals such as Occupational or Physical therapy
- Psychologist or Speech Language Pathologist may complete an assessment and share recommendations for programming, resources or services.

The student may be referred to an IPRC (see Appendix E), depending on the recommendations of the Resource Team and discussions with the parent/guardian. Parents may also request an IPRC independently. Continued assessment may be required.

Procedures used within Grand Erie DSB for referring a student for an assessment

- At various steps in the School Team Process, a variety of assessments, from informal to formal, requiring increased expertise in specific forms of testing may be necessary. The following may be the hierarchy of assessments a student could require, to determine programs and services that will meet his/her educational needs. At each level (other than regular classroom methods), the parent/guardian must give written consent and be informed of the outcome of the assessment.
- Assessment of a student begins with the teacher in the classroom using a variety of methods on a regular basis (such as work samples, portfolios, teacher-made tests, observations, checklists, Brigance, DRA (Diagnostic Reading Assessment), BAS (Benchmark Assessment System) to evaluate student progress.
- If the classroom teacher notices that a child is experiencing difficulty during the course of ongoing assessment which could affect his/her ability to meet the curriculum, the parent/guardian that further testing by the School's LRT may be necessary. The teacher will discuss the School Team Process with the parent/guardian.
- With informed, written parent/guardian consent, the LRT may administer the, Academic Achievement Battery (AAB), or any other educational assessment. The parent/guardian, classroom teacher and LRT will discuss the results of the assessment along with recommendations or strategies to be implemented by school personnel and the parent/guardian.
- Upon referral to the School Resource Team, a psycho-educational assessment by qualified personnel may be recommended to the parent/guardian for the child. This form of assessment may include tests of intellectual abilities, perceptual development and/or academic achievement. The parent/guardian and school personnel will be informed of the results of the assessment and recommendations.
- Results of the assessment and recommendations from the support personnel will be implemented by the classroom teacher.
- A referral to the family physician may be suggested to identify any physiological factors, which may interfere with learning.
- The child may be referred to an IPRC depending on the recommendations of the Resource Team and discussions with the parent/guardian. Further assessment by a speech-language pathologist, psychologist or outside agencies or health care

Grand Erie DSB personnel use the following types of assessment:

Educational Assessments	Psycho-educational Assessments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• These assessments are made for learning, as learning, and of learning (Learning For All, 2013). They identify strengths and weaknesses. Recommendations and/or strategies will be a component.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A psycho-educational assessment may include tests of intellectual abilities, perceptual development and/or academic achievement. These tests are conducted by a Psycho-educational Consultant or Psychological Associate who are qualified to administer such tests. Psycho-educational Consultants are supervised by Psychological Associates.

Test of Intellectual Abilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are tests that measure an individual's ability levels at a given point in time. The results of these tests are used by teachers to help students reach their maximum functioning level by identifying their strengths and weaknesses. 	Tests of Perceptual Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are tests and/or observations that may indicate strengths/weaknesses with the processing of visual and/or auditory information.
Tests of Academic Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are standardized tests which measure an individual's performance on reading, spelling and mathematics tasks. 	Functional Behaviour Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A process that identifies target behaviour, and behaviour function, to understand what maintains behaviour. This leads to intervention plans to teach alternative behaviours and social skills. <u>Behavioural Assessments:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>These assessments measure a child's adjustment to social situations.</u> <u>They are conducted by qualified personnel and may involve observations or checklists.</u>
Speech-Language Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech-Language Assessments may include tests of articulation, voice, stuttering and receptive and expressive language. These tests are conducted by Speech-Language Pathologists. Speech: These tests may involve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessment of the child's ability to produce speech sounds and control the muscles and oral structures required for speech; assessment of vocal quality, pitch, loudness and resonance; assessment of stuttering. Language: These tests may involve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessment of the child's understanding of oral language; assessment of the child's ability to orally express himself/herself; assessment of a child's needs for additional communication support. Behavioural Assessments: These assessments measure a child's adjustment to social situations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are conducted by qualified personnel and may involve observations or checklists. 	

After the Assessment

- Recommendations may be made for further assessment by other board personnel, outside agencies, or health care. The Resource Team will provide the parent/guardian with an explanation of the need for further assessment. For the School Board to release or receive information, including assessments from outside agencies, the parent/guardian must provide written authorization for the exchange of information (Appendix).
- The child may be referred to an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) meeting depending on the recommendations of the Resource Team and discussions with the parent/guardian.
- Once a child is referred to IPRC and determined to be exceptional, the recommended program will be implemented by the classroom teacher
- The parent/guardian will continue to be informed of his/her progress through consultation in the development and review of the IEP at each reporting period. In addition, the parent/guardian will receive confirmation of their child's progress at the annual IPRC.

Procedures for Providing Parent/Guardians with Notice that their Child is Being Considered for Referral to an IPRC

- Students who have behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical, or multiple exceptionalities, may have educational needs that cannot be met through regular instructional and assessment practices. These needs may be met through accommodations, and/or an educational program that is modified ~~above or~~ below the age-appropriate grade level expectations for a particular subject or course. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced.html Needs may also be best met through alternative expectations that are developed to help students acquire knowledge and skills that are not represented in the Ontario Curriculum, and can include skills areas like gross motor and life skills.
- Through ongoing involvement in the School Team Process, the parent/guardian will be aware of his/her child's strengths and needs. When recommending a referral to IPRC, the Resource Team will examine information from a variety of sources regarding the student to see if it matches Ministry definitions and Board criteria.
- The parent/guardian will be informed by the School Principal of the Resource Team's decision to refer the child to IPRC. Along with the Letter of Invitation to the IPRC, the parent/guardian will receive a copy of the *Parents' Guide to Special Education* and any information that will be presented at the meeting (Appendix E)
- Parents may also request and initiate a referral to the IPRC. According to Ontario Regulation 181/98, "Identification and Placement of Exceptional Pupils", once a child has been enrolled in school, parents have the right to request that the principal refer their child to an IPRC. The principal must refer the student to an IPRC upon receiving a written request from the parent.

Procedures for Providing Parent/Guardians with Notice that their Child is Being Considered for a Special Education Program and Related Services if the Child is *Not* Being Referred to IPRC

- All students who receive Special Education Programs and/or Services in ~~the GEDSB~~ Grand Erie may not be formally identified as exceptional. This philosophy blends with the following statement from Special Education in Ontario, Kindergarten to Grade 12: The Individual Education Plan, Ministry of Education 2017
 - *An IEP may be developed for a student who has not been identified by an IPRC as exceptional, but who has been deemed by the board to require a special education program or services in order to attend school or to achieve curriculum expectations and/or to demonstrate learning.*
 - o In addition, School LRT's may work with non-identified students in the regular classroom to help them achieve the curriculum expectations. The majority of the LRT's role is to support the classroom teacher to program for and implement learning experiences for students in their classrooms, not withdrawal of students.
 - o This type of support is seen as a preventative measure, allowing students to overcome difficulties and be successful in the school environment.

For the types of early intervention strategies that are used to support students prior to referral to IPRC, refer to **Accommodations** (Standard 9).

Early Intervention Supports for Students Prior to IPRC

The following agencies can be contacted for assistance determining best available supports in the community:

Contact Brant..... 519-758-8228 www.contactbrant.net
 Haldimand Norfolk REACH 519-587-2441 or 1-800-265-8087 www.hnreach.on.ca
 Lansdowne Children's Centre 519-753-3153 www.lansdownecentre.ca

In May 2007, the Ministry of Education issued PPM 140: Incorporating Methods of Applied Behaviour Analysis into Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, which provides direction to school boards and supports their use of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) as an effective instructional approach in the education of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

PPM 140 outlines ABA and two requirements that must be in place for students with ASD:

- School boards must offer students with ASD special education programs and services, including, where appropriate, special education programs using ABA methods;
- School board staff must plan for the transition between various activities and settings involving students with ASD.

Grand Erie employs Board Certified Behaviour Analysts, Behaviour Counsellors with ABA expertise and an ABA Coordinator to support the implementation of PPM 140. The ABA Coordinator supports the implementation of the Connections for Students transition process.

Connections for Students

The purpose of Connections for Students is to support students as they transition from IBI services within the Ontario Autism Program to applied behaviour analysis (ABA) instructional methods in a publicly funded school.

Connections is a multidisciplinary, student specific and school-based transition team that;

- Is comprised of the Principal, Parent/Guardian, classroom Teacher, ABA Coordinator and School Support Program ASD Consultant and other multidisciplinary staff, as required.
- Begin to meet 6 months prior to the student completing IBI services, and continue to meet monthly until 6 months after discharge from IBI services
- Aligns Individual Education Plans (IEPs), transition plans and behaviour/safety plans to support the student in acquiring, generalizing and maintaining their skills
- Support collaboration between the school board, regional autism provider and the family

Grand Erie DSB Students Involved in Connections during ~~2020-21~~ 2019-20 School Year

- To date, ~~21~~ students ~~has~~ have been discharged from Connections this year and 1 student withdrew from our Board for homeschooling.
- Currently, we have ~~7~~ 4 students involved in Connections.

Standard 5: THE IPRC PROCESS AND APPEALS

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's Identification, Placement and Review Committee(s) (IPRC) process to the ministry and the public.

Statement of Purpose and Responsibility:

Regulation 181/98 requires that all school boards establish one or more Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs). The IPRC meets and decides if a student should be identified as an exceptional pupil and if so, the placement that will best meet the student's needs. An IPRC is composed of at least three persons, one of whom must be a principal or supervisory officer of the board, or a designate assigned to act in the place of the principal or supervisory officer. A school board trustee may not be on the IPRC.

Committee Composition

Grand Erie DSB uses three levels of Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs):

- a) School Level
- b) Area Level
- c) System Level

Level	Membership	Jurisdiction
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Principal (of the school) – Chair* The LRT of the school The classroom teacher or other teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review of original identification review of original "regular class" placements recommendation for placement in a Demonstration School for a student who is already identified as exceptional
Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> one Principal (from the area) - Chair** another Principal or Vice-Principal (or designate) a Teacher Consultant-Special Education (for the area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> original identification original "regular class" placements placements in area special classes review of placements in area special classes original identification and placement of complex cases
System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent, Principal-Leader of Special Education or designate – Chair*** The Program Coordinator for Special Education a Teacher Consultant-Special Education (for the area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> original identification and placement of complex cases placement of students in system special classes review of placements in system special classes referral to Provincial Schools

* The chair of the School level IPRC is the Principal of the home school. If the Principal is unable to attend, a Principal from another school and/or a Supervisory Officer must attend as a Vice-Principal can not be the sole Principal representative on an IPRC.

** The chair of the Area level IPRC is a Principal other than the Principal of the school in which the student is enrolled.

*** The chair of the System level IPRC is Superintendent or Principal-Leader Special Education or designate.

In addition to the three people that constitute an IPRC, other people may attend an IPRC meeting, including the Principal of the home school, resource people such as the student's teacher or board support staff, a parent/guardian or the student (if over 16 years of age) and/or a parent representative. The parent/guardian and, where the pupil is over 16, the pupil, are entitled to be present and participate in the discussions about the pupil and to be present when the committee's identification and placement decisions are made.

Committee Operating Procedures and Scope

The Scope for each level of IPRC is, as follows:

- a) School level IPRCs review an original identification and review an original placement if the placement was "regular class". A School level IPRC may also recommend placement of a student who is already identified as an exceptional student with a Learning Disability at a Demonstration School.
- b) Area level IPRCs determine the original identification of a student. They also determine the original "regular class" placements and placements in area special classes. Area IPRCs also review placement in area special classes. In addition, they will determine the original identification and placement of complex cases.
- c) System level IPRCs determine the placement of students in system special classes. They also review placements in system special classes. System level IPRCs also make referrals to Provincial schools and determine original identification and placement of complex cases.
 - Principals may, upon written notification to the parent/guardian, and must, at the written request of the parent/guardian, refer a student to an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).
 - Identifications are made in accordance with Ministry policy and regulations. In order to be identified as an "exceptional pupil" a student must meet the criteria for the exceptionality and, in most circumstances, must require modifications of program.
 - School level IPRCs have one option for placement – regular class.
 - Area level and System level IPRCs have two options for placement – regular class or special class.
 - Discussions about a student's Individual Educational plan and other program options may occur at a meeting of the IPRC and this discussion should include description of the student's strengths and needs. The decision-making of the IPRC is restricted to the student's identification and placement and includes identifying the next date for a review.
 - Notification to parents/guardians and other parties about the date, time and location of the IPRC is the responsibility of the Principal of the home school and must be provided 10 days in advance of the IPRC.
 - Minutes of the IPRC will be completed by the Chair and will include a checklist indicating the decision about identification and placement. Minutes must be filed at the school in the Ontario Student Record (OSR).
 - Communication of IPRC decisions to parents/guardians and to area/central files should occur, as follows:
 - a) School Level IPRC – the home school Principal communicates in writing to the parent/guardian
 - b) Area Level IPRC – the Principal who chairs the IPRC communicates in writing to parent/guardian, and to schools,
 - c) System Level IPRC – Principal-Leader Special Education or designate communicates in writing to parent/guardian, and to schools.

Role of the Board

The Grand Erie District School board shall establish one or more committees for the Identification and Placement of exceptional students, determine the jurisdiction of each committee and establish the manner in of selecting the chair of the committee. The board shall direct administration to select individuals who meet the requirements of the members set out by the board.

The Board shall appoint three or more persons to each committee that it establishes. The board shall appoint as one of the members of each committee:

- a) a Principal employed by the board
- b) a Supervisory Officer employed by the board

The Board shall direct administration to ensure that individual membership on each IPRC meets the requirements as set out by the board.

The Board shall prepare a guide (A Parent's Guide to Special Education) for the use and information of parents and pupils that provides information concerning:

- a) the function of the IPRC and the IPRC review
- b) the procedure for identifying a student as exceptional and for deciding the student's placement
- c) the IPRC's duty to describe the strengths and needs of the student
- d) the IPRC's duty to include the student's exceptionality and the category and definition of that exceptionality in its statement of decision
- e) the function of a special education appeal board and the parent's right to appeal the decision of the IPRC to such a board
- f) the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Provincial and Demonstration schools
- g) whether and to what extent the school board purchases special education programs from another school board
- h) a list of local parents' organizations eligible to be on a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- i) the information that an IPRC placement decision cannot be implemented unless a parent has consented to the decision or has not filed a notice of appeal within the required time limit.

All parents shall be informed by means of an item in the school newsletter or by other appropriate means, at least once each year, of the availability of the Parent's Guide to the IPRC process. At the same time, parents shall also be informed of their right to request that their child be referred to an IPRC. (**A Parents' Guide to Special Education - Identification Placement and Review Committee** (Appendix E), also (**A Guide for Parents – Individual Education Plan (IEP)** Appendix F).

The Board shall ensure that copies of the guide are available at each school in the Board's jurisdiction and at the Board's head office and shall provide a copy to the appropriate district office of the Ministry.

Number of IPRC referrals for the school year 2019-20 2020-21:	355 numbers ready in May
Number of IPRC reviews for the school year 2019-20 2020-21:	1965
Number of IPRC appeals for the school year 2019-20 2020-21:	1

Standard 6: EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the board's assessment policies and procedures to the ministry and to make parents aware of the types of assessment tools used by the school board, the ways in which assessments are obtained by IPRCs, and the ways in which assessments are used.

Types of Assessments

Assessments are intended to assist the student by providing staff with insights into the student's strengths, needs and learning profile. Three types of assessments are conducted by personnel within Grand Erie: Educational, Psycho-educational, and Speech and Language.

Educational assessments are limited to achievement testing of individual students both by formal and informal means. Responsibility for training of staff to use these assessment tools is assumed by the Program/Student Success Team if the assessment is to be administered by classroom teachers to inform program delivery for all students and by the Special Education team when more in depth assessment to be administered by the Learning Resource Teacher is needed for a specific student. Formal measures include (but may not be limited to):

For *Classroom Teachers*:

Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) – Primary
 Benchmark Assessment System – Primary & Junior
 Ontario Comprehension Assessment (OCA)
 Groupe Beauchemin (GB+) – French Immersion

For *Learning Resource Teachers*:

Academic Achievement Battery (AAB)
 Brigance Tests of Basic Skills
 Brigance Early Development Scale

The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT 7) is administered in grade 3. It is used as a tool to help classroom teachers better understand the learning profile of their Grade 3 students and to inform program development for all students based on their profile of learning strengths and needs. This assessment tool may also assist to flag students who may be in need of further assessment to understand their learning needs, and as a screening tool to inform whether an individual student may require additional supports in the area of Enriched or Gifted Learning.

Psychological measures are used by Psychological Associates and Psycho-Educational Consultants. All are administered individually to students after informed consent from parents/guardians has been obtained. They can be subdivided into various types. Among the most frequently used tests are the following:

(a) *Global Cognitive/Intellectual measures*:

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fifth Edition (WISC V) (Canadian norms)
 Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV) (Canadian norms)
 Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence – Fourth Edition (WPPSI-IV) (Canadian norms)
 Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale – Fifth Edition (SB5)
 Wechsler Nonverbal Scale of Ability (Canadian norms)
 Ravens 2 Progressive Matrices

(b) ***Academic Achievement Measures***

Kaufman Test of Individual Achievement – Third Edition (Canadian norms)

Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third Edition (Canadian norms)

(c) ***Processing and Specific Skills Tests:***

Bender Visual-Motor Gestalt Test – Second Edition

Beery Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration – Sixth Edition (VMI-6)

Beery VMI Developmental Test of Visual Perception – Sixth Edition

Beery VMI Developmental Test of Motor Coordination – Sixth Edition

California Verbal Learning Test – Children (CVLT-C)

Children's Colour Trails Test

Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing – Second Edition (CTOPP-2)

Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (DKEFS)

NEPSY-A Developmental Neuropsychological Assessment – Second Edition

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test: Fifth Edition (Forms A & B) (PPVT)

Process Assessment of Learning – Second Edition (Language and Math) (PAL-II)

Rey Complex Figure Test (RCFT)

Test of Memory and Learning – Second Edition (TOMAL-2)

(d) ***Surveys and Checklists:***Adaptive Behaviour Assessment System – Third Edition (various forms) (ABAS-~~II~~3)

Beck Depression Inventory – Second Edition (BDI-2)

Behaviour Assessment Scale for Children – Third Edition (various forms) (BASC-III)

Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function – Second Edition (BRIEF2)

Brown Executive Function/Attention Scales (various forms)

Childhood Autism Rating Scale – Second Edition (CARS-2)

Gillam Autism Rating Scale – Second Edition (GARS-2)

Multi-dimensional Anxiety Scale for Children: Second Edition (MASC-II)

Piers-Harris Children's Self-Concept Scale – Second Edition

Speech-Language assessments are completed by Speech-Language Pathologists. Formal measures used to evaluate speech (articulation/phonology, fluency, resonance, voice) and oral language (receptive and expressive, vocabulary, phonological awareness, social/pragmatic language) include:

(a) ***Speech/Phonological Processes:***~~Assessment of Phonological Processes—Revised (APP-R)~~

Fletcher Time-By-Count Test of Diadochokinetic Syllable Rate

Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation – 3 (GFTA-3)

Kaufman Speech Praxis Test (KSPT)

Structured Photographic Test of Articulation –D: ~~II~~III(SPAT-D:~~3~~2)Stuttering Severity Instrument - ~~4~~(b) ***Language:***

Bankson Language Test – 2 Screen (BLT-2S)

Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals – Fifth Edition (CELF-5)

Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals – Primary (~~Second~~Third Edition)

Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals, Fifth Edition Metalinguistics

~~Detroit Test of Learning Aptitude—Fourth Edition (DTLA-4)~~

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Expressive One Word Picture Vocabulary Test - 3
 Language Processing Test – 3 (LPT-3)
 Montgomery Assessment of Vocabulary Acquisition (MAVA)
 Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test –Fifth Edition (Forms A & B)
 Preschool Language Scale – 5 (PLS-5)
 Rapid Automatized Naming/Rapid Alternating Stimulus Tests (RAN/RAS)
 Social Language Development Test – Elementary (SLDT-E NU)
 Structured Photographic Expressive Language Test – 3 (SPELT-3)
 Structured Photographic Expressive Language Test – Preschool Second Edition (SPELT-P2)
 Test of Aided Communication Symbol Performance (TASP)
~~Test of Language Competence – Expanded (TALC-E)~~
 Test of Narrative Language - 2 (TNL-2)
 Test of Problem Solving – Third Edition (TOPS-3)
 Test of Problem Solving 2 - Adolescents
 Test of Word Finding – ~~3-2~~ (TWF-~~3-2~~)
 The Listening Comprehension Test – 2 (LCT-2)
~~The Test of Language Development – Intermediate: 2 (TOLD-I:2)~~
~~The Test of Language Development – Primary: 4 (TOLD-P:4)~~
 The Word Test – 3: Elementary
 The Word Test – 3: Adolescent
 Wiig Test of Basic Concepts (WABC)

(c) ***Phonological/Phonemic Awareness***

Emerging Literacy Language Assessment (ELLA)
 Pre-Reading Inventory of Phonological Awareness (PIPA)
 Profile of Phonological Awareness (PROPA)

(d) ***Motor Speech***

Dynamic Evaluation of Motor Speech Skills (DEMSS)
Informal Tool for Early Motor Speech (ITEMS)

Qualifications of Staff

Educational assessments are conducted by teachers who are governed by the Education Act, and regulated by the College of Teachers (www.oct.ca)

Psychological *et al.* assessments are administered by psychologists, psychological associates and psycho-educational consultants. Psychologists/psychological associates and those they supervise are governed by the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991. Only psychologists/psychological associates provide and communicate diagnoses. Psychologists and Psychological Associates are members of the College of Psychologists of Ontario (www.cpo.on.ca).

Speech-Language assessments are administered by Speech-Language Pathologists who are also governed by the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 and belong to the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario (www.caslpo.com).

~~Should there be something about behavioural assessments, i.e. BCBA?~~

Referrals Management and Wait Times

Individual assessments are completed to support educational program planning. Referrals for

assessment are considered and prioritized through the Resource Team process. Meetings are held at least every six weeks with an agenda determined by the School Team which has already accessed expertise within the school building including a review of classroom based assessment information, standardized educational assessment (AAB), participation in intensive early literacy intervention programs if appropriate, and the thorough implementation of Tier 1 strategies. Resource Team (RT) discussion includes programming to support educational (academic and well-being) needs based on available information, and recommendations for medical assessment such as hearing/vision if required. If a referral for further assessment is not deemed to be necessary at the time of the Resource Team meeting but careful monitoring of progress to reconsider this decision in the future is, an intervention plan and timelines to bring back to the RT are developed and left with the School Team for implementation. Prioritizing of referrals takes into account:

- severity of needs
- request for outside agency involvement
- school setting of priorities
- school referral patterns relative to the severity of needs across the district

Referrals for assessment are logged centrally using the Learner Intervention for Tracking Excellence (LITE) process.

Wait times for psycho-educational assessments are generally 1 – 6 months. This reflects the time between the date a referral is made in LITE after a Resource Team meeting to the date of the parent/guardian meeting when the written report of assessment findings and recommendations is shared.

Wait times for speech-language assessments range from 1 to 13 months. In addition to Resource Team referrals, Communication Services staff meet with Kindergarten Educator Teams during the first 6 weeks of school to help determine children most in need of specialized support. Using a tiered intervention framework, the service delivery approach is developed based on student and school needs. For example, some schools might receive a block or even several blocks of service while others, based on comparative need, might not receive any blocks of direct intervention, but will have service delivered in a less intensive approach (i.e., Home Programming, classroom strategies to develop skills). All Kindergarten Educator Teams receive speech-language services support, to implement the Sound Bites Phonological Awareness Program (<https://sway.office.com/s12G1zX3yBWx5cG6>).

All direct interventions with students are conducted only with written parent/guardian consent which typically includes individual discussions with the parent/guardian to ensure that the consent is informed and voluntary. Limits of confidentiality, privacy of information, likely use of the assessment information, and distribution of the report are also discussed. Students 18 years of age or older, provide their own consent.

Results of individual Educational/Psycho-educational/Speech-Language assessments are communicated through a meeting or telephone call with the parent/guardian and a written copy of the assessment report is provided. Meeting face-to-face so that assessment findings and recommendations can be used to collaboratively determine next steps in program planning is preferred. The COVID context has required that meetings with parents take place on the telephone or through Microsoft Teams. Student participation in these discussions is determined in consultation with their parent/guardian, taking into account developmental constraints.

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Appropriate school staff are involved when assessment results are ~~communicated to~~ reviewed with the parent/guardian.

Reports prepared by professionals outside the Board are reviewed to determine what information provided helps delineate a student's learning needs, strengths or problems and how it can be used for the improvement of instruction within a school context and in accordance with the *Education Act*, (R.S.O. 1990, S.226(2)). Where this information differs from data collected at the school, the Resource Team will determine how best to proceed. There is no requirement that assessments or reassessments must be conducted by Board personnel (i.e. reports are "transportable"). Allocation of educational resources and educational programming decisions remain the responsibility of school/system staff.

Protection of Privacy and Consent for Sharing Information

Privacy of Information is protected under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)* and the *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)*. Assessment reports are filed in the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR) folder. The original report is housed in a confidential Psychology or Speech-Language Record which is maintained for 10 years after the date of last contact or 10 years after the child turns 18 years of age in accordance with the Regulation Health Professions Act (RHPA).

Written authorization from the parent/guardian or student over 18 years of age is obtained prior to releasing reports to outside agencies.

Standard 7: SPECIALIZED HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES IN SCHOOL SETTINGS

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's specialized health support services to the ministry and the public.

Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 81 – Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings provides direction about the delivery of services that go beyond educational services and are not part of normal preventative health programs already provided by boards of health to school children.

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 161 – Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy) in Schools must have policies and procedures in place to support students with prevalent medical conditions. For students to fully participate in the learning environment and achieve success, the Grand Erie District School Board, [the Home and Community Care Support Service of Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand & Brant \(HNHB\)](#), [the Hamilton Niagara-Haldimand-Brant LHIN](#), the Southwest LHIN and the Lansdowne Children's Centre who manages the School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) program share responsibility for these specialized health support services.

Further information regarding specialized health support services in Grand Erie can be found in the following documents:

Board Policy SO8 – Community Partnerships

Board Policy SO28 – Student Concussion and Head Injury

Board Policy SO30 – Management of Potentially Life Threatening Health Conditions, Including Administration of Medication, in Schools

Board Procedure SO108 – Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together

Key abbreviations used within the document:

LCC – Lansdowne Children's Centre

LHIN – Local Health Integration Network

OT – Occupational Therapist

PT – Physiotherapist

PSL – Preschool [Speech and Language System](#)

RN – Registered Nurse

SBRS – School Based Rehabilitation Services

SHSS – School Health Support Services

SLP – Speech and Language Pathologist

Specialized Health Support Service	Agency or position of person who performs the service (e.g.: LHIN board, staff, parent, student)	Eligibility criteria for students to receive the service	Position of person who determines eligibility to receive the service and the level of support	Criteria for determining when the service is no longer required	Procedures for resolving disputes about eligibility and level of support (if available)
Occupational Therapy	SBRS program managed through LCC	Meets criteria for assessment established by SBRS Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment indicating if OT services are required	SBRS clinician based upon established criteria	Criteria determined by SBRS SBRS OT indicates when occupational therapy services are no longer required	Discussion with SBRS Manager
Physiotherapy	SBRS program managed through LCC	Meets criteria for assessment established by SBRS Physiotherapy (PT) assessment indicating if PT services are required	SBRS clinician based upon established criteria	Criteria determined by SBRS SBRS PT indicates when physiotherapy services are no longer required	Discussion with SBRS Manager
Speech & Language Therapy	SBRS program managed through LCC	Meets criteria for assessment established by SBRS Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) assessment <u>indicating if SBRS Speech services are</u>	SBRS clinician based upon established criteria SLP based	Criteria determined by SBRS <u>SBRS</u> SLP indicates when intervention no longer required	Discussion with SBRS Manager School Team

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Specialized Health Support Service	Agency or position of person who performs the service (e.g.: LHIN board, staff, parent, student)	Eligibility criteria for students to receive the service	Position of person who determines eligibility to receive the service and the level of support	Criteria for determining when the service is no longer required	Procedures for resolving disputes about eligibility and level of support (if available)
	Grand Erie <u>Brant Haldimand Norfolk Preschool Speech and Language (BHNPSL) managed through LCC</u> Brantford /Brant County Preschool Language System (LCC) Haldimand-Norfolk Preschool Language Program (HN Public Health Services)	<u>required</u>	on assessment results PSL clinician based upon established criteria	Transfer from PSL based on age and need	meeting with parent/guardian and student if appropriate or required by legislation and SLP report
Nursing	LHIN (SHSS) and <u>HNHB</u>	Medical assessment indicating that nursing must be provided during school hours	LHIN/ <u>HNHB</u> Care Coordinator	Medical assessment indicating nursing no longer required during school hours OR Parent/guardian assumes responsibility	School or parent/guardian can request case conference with <u>LHIN/HNHB</u> Care Coordinator

Specialized Health Support Service	Agency or position of person who performs the service (e.g.: LHIN, board, staff, parent, student)	Eligibility criteria for students to receive the service	Position of person who determines eligibility to receive the service and the level of support	Criteria for determining when the service is no longer required	Procedures for resolving disputes about eligibility and level of support (if available)
Administering of prescribed medications	<p>Oral medication by school staff.</p> <p>G-tube and Intra-muscular medications by LHIN (SHSS)/HNH B</p> <p>Student (if appropriate)</p> <p>**Note school staff are not authorized to administer injections; therefore, requests made in relationship to school staff administering injections shall be denied</p>	Medical Statement OR Authorization of parent/guardian for medication to be administered at school except for administration of medicinal cannabis, which requires a Medical Statement	<p>School Principal</p> <p>LHIN/HNH B Care Coordinator</p>	<p>Medical recommendation indicating that prescribed medication no longer needs to be administered during school hours</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Student has learned to administer medications independently</p>	<p>School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN/HNH B Care Coordinator</p>
Assistance with Catheterization	<p>Student</p> <p>Board Staff (i.e., volunteer Educational Assistants after training</p>	Medical assessment indicating that catheterization must be done during school hours.	LHIN / HNH B Care Coordinator	Medical recommendation indicating catheterization no longer required during school hours	<p>School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN/HNH B Care</p>

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	by LHIN (SHSS))			OR Parent/guardian assumes responsibility	Coordinator
Suctioning	LHIN (SHSS)/ HNH <u>B</u>	Medical Referral	LHIN/ HNH <u>B</u> -Care Coordinator	Recommendation indicating that suctioning no longer required during school hours OR Parent/guardian assumes responsibility	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN/ HNH <u>B</u> Care Coordinator
Lifting and positioning	School staff as trained by LHIN agent <u>SBRS therapist</u> as appropriate (usually OT/PT)	Assessment by health professional indicating that lifting and positioning must be done during school hours	LHIN Care Coordinator <u>SBRRs Manager</u>	Recommendation indicating that lifting and positioning no longer required during school hours OR Parent/guardian assumes responsibility	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN <u>Care Coordinator</u> <u>SBRS Manager</u>

Specialized Health Support Service	Agency or position of person who performs the service (e.g.: LHIN, board, staff, parent, student)	Eligibility criteria for students to receive the service	Position of person who determines eligibility to receive the service and the level of support	Criteria for determining when the service is no longer required	Procedures for resolving disputes about eligibility and level of support (if available)
Assistance with mobility	School staff as trained by LHIN <u>SBR</u> agent <u>if therapist</u> as appropriate (usually OT/PT)	<u>OT/PT</u> Medical Referral	Medical Referral	Recommendation indicating that assistance with mobility no longer required during school hours OR Parent/guardian and student assume responsibility	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN <u>Care Coordinator</u> S <u>BRS Manager</u>
Feeding	Oral - school staff G-tube - LHIN (SHSS) <u>HNHB</u>	Medical Referral	Physician, Nurse	LHIN (SHSS) <u>HNHB</u> : Parent directives based on physician orders	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN <u>HNHB</u> Care Coordinator
Toileting	School staff - training available from OT/RN	Medical Referral	Physician, Nurse	Once school staff training is complete service may be discharged or placed on hold for future requests	Not applicable

Standard 8: CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS OF EXCEPTIONALITIES

PURPOSE: To make information on the categories and definitions of exceptionalities available to the public, including parents and community associations.

Students will be identified as exceptional by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) when their “behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that they are considered to need placement in a special education program” (Education Act) (Special Education program implies an Individual Education Plan with modifications within the regular program or a self-contained program.)

The IPRC requires an individual educational (classroom) assessment before making a decision about the identification of a student as exceptional or the placement of a student in a special education program. Educational assessments are conducted by the classroom teacher, often under the guidance of the School Team. Data from ongoing assessment *for* learning by the classroom teacher(s) and from ongoing assessment *as* learning by the student is collected to plan instruction and further assessment. Assessment *for* learning involves gathering evidence from a variety of sources to plan, adjust, and deliver instruction that meets the particular needs of individual students. It includes both diagnostic (i.e., review of recent report cards, consultation with previous teachers, parents, special educational teachers, classroom observations, classroom assessments) and formative (i.e., classroom tests, assignments, observations, progress towards alternate programming goals) assessment practices. Both educational (classroom) assessments and professional supporting assessments contribute to IPRC decisions. The determining factor for the provision of special education programs or services is not any specific diagnosed or undiagnosed medical condition, but rather the needs of the individual student based on an individual assessment of strengths and needs. It should be noted that when the IPRC identifies the student as exceptional and applies the ministry’s definition to describe the exceptionality, it is not diagnosing a condition but merely indicating an educational category. The IPRC identification should not be interpreted as a diagnosis.

There are five categories of exceptionality recognized in the Education Act. The Ministry has defined additional sub-categories for some of the categories.

Resources

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 8:

Identification of and program planning for students with learning disabilities.

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 140:

Incorporating methods of applied behaviour analysis (ABA) into programs for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 156:

Supporting transitions for students with special education needs.

Steps to Identification with an Exceptionality are outlined in the Special Education Plan: Section 2
 Allowable Accommodations are outlined in the Special Education Plan: Appendix G

Behaviour

A learning disorder characterized by specific behaviour problems over such a period of time, and to such a marked degree, and of such a nature, as to adversely affect educational performance, and that may be accompanied by one or more of the following:

- an inability to build or to maintain interpersonal relationships
- excessive fears or anxieties
- a tendency to compulsive reaction
- an inability to learn that cannot be traced to intellectual, sensory, or other health factors, or any combination thereof.

Major Indicators:

- A persistent pattern of non-compliant, defiant, physical and/or verbally aggressive behaviours observed within the school environment;
- Behaviours are frequent, intense and of such a duration that they compromise the student's learning and ability to be successful at school (for example behaviour is the reason they are not meeting their potential) and/or their behaviour is interfering with the learning of others;
- Behaviours continue despite the implementation of behaviour strategies and interventions;
- Allowable accommodations have proven to be insufficient.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ School Documentation demonstrates that the nature, frequency, severity of the behaviours are disruptive to the student's learning;
- ✓ Behaviours are not secondary to other medical, neurobiological or other developmental disorders;
- ✓ All behaviours must be looked at in the context of functional/developmental age, and culture;
- ✓ Behaviour plan is in place;
- ✓ Consultation/involvement with Behavioural system staff and other appropriate support staff has occurred;
- ✓ A psycho-educational assessment and/or speech and language assessment are recommended when school Resource Team deems appropriate.

Communication

Autism

A severe learning disorder that is characterized by:

- a) disturbances in:
 - rate of educational development;
 - ability to relate to the environment;
 - mobility;
 - perception, speech, and language.
- b) lack of the representational symbolic behaviour that precedes language.

Major Indicators:

- Persistent deficits in social communications and social interactions and restricted repetitive patterns of behaviour;
- Allowable accommodations are insufficient;
- ABA strategies, interventions and transition supports are in place and in compliance with PPM140;
- Consultation with ABA and Autism system support staff and other appropriate support staff has occurred.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ A diagnosis by a qualified medical practitioner belonging to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario or qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario.

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

An impairment characterized by deficits in language and speech development because of a diminished or non-existent auditory response to sound.

Major Indicators:

- Student is not meeting the grade level expectations (modifications that include either a reduction in the number and/or complexity of the student's current grade level expectations or modifications to a lower grade level);
- Allowable accommodations are insufficient;
- Up to date audiology assessment report completed by an audiologist (preferably within 1 year);
- Recent speech and language assessment has been completed;
- AAB or equivalent standardized assessment of academic achievement has been completed.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ Audiology Assessment completed by a registered audiologist belonging to the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario that states a specific level of hearing loss.

Language Impairment

A learning disorder characterized by an impairment in comprehension and/or the use of verbal communication or the written or other symbol system of communication, which may be associated with neurological, psychological, physical, or sensory factors, and which may:

- a) involve one or more of the form, content, and function of language in communication; and
- b) include one or more of the following:
 - language delay;
 - dysfluency;
 - voice and articulation development, which may or may not be organically or functionally based.

Major Indicators:

- Moderate to severe Receptive Language delay/impairment;
- Moderate to severe Expressive Language delay/impairment;
- Allowable accommodations are insufficient;
- Language impairment is impacting their ability to access the curriculum;
- Remedial programming is essential.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ Assessment by a ~~registered~~ Speech Language Pathologist belonging to the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario
- ✓ Psycho-educational Assessment completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario.
- ✓ The student displays a moderate to severe delay in receptive and/or expressive language development, at or below the 5th percentile on standard measures that is not due to cultural or linguistic differences;
- ✓ AAB or equivalent standardized assessment of academic achievement has been completed when deemed appropriate by the school Resource Team.

Speech Impairment

A disorder in language formulation that may be associated with neurological, psychological, physical, or sensory factors; that involves perceptual motor aspects of transmitting oral messages; and that may be characterized by impairment in articulation, rhythm, and stress.

Major Indicators:

- Difficult to understand speech that affects communication;
- The student displays a severe to profound impairment in articulation, phonology, motor speech and/or fluency that results in unintelligible (difficult to understand) speech;
- Accommodations/modifications are essential for orally expressing their knowledge and ideas.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ Assessment by a ~~registered~~ Speech Language Pathologist belonging to the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario.

Learning Disability

One of a number of neurodevelopmental disorders that persistently and significantly has an impact on the ability to learn and use academic and other skills and that:

- affects the ability to perceive or process verbal and non-verbal information in an effective and accurate manner in students who have assessed intellectual abilities that are *at least* in the average range;
- results in (a) academic underachievement that is inconsistent with the intellectual abilities of the student (which are at least in the average range) and/or (b) academic achievement that can be maintained by the student only with extremely high levels of effort and/or with additional support;
- results in difficulties in the development and use of skills in one or more of the following areas: reading, writing, mathematics, and work habits and learning skills;
- may typically be associated with difficulties in one or more cognitive processes, such as phonological processing; memory and attention; processing speed; perceptual-motor processing; visual-spatial processing; executive functions (e.g., self-regulation of behavior and emotions, planning, organizing of thoughts and activities, prioritizing, decision making);
- may be associated with difficulties in social interaction (e.g., difficulty in understanding social norms or the point of view of others); with various conditions or disorders, diagnosed or undiagnosed; or with other exceptionalities;
- is *not* the result of a lack of acuity in hearing, and/or vision that has not been corrected; intellectual disabilities; socio-economic factors; cultural differences; lack of proficiency in the language of instruction; lack of motivation or effort; gaps in school attendance or inadequate opportunity to benefit from instruction.

Major Indicators:

- Difficulties in the development and use of skills in one or more of the following areas:
 - reading
 - writing
 - mathematics
 - work habits/learning skills
- Allowable accommodations insufficient for meeting student needs;
- Psycho-educational assessment indicates that academic achievement is inconsistent with the intellectual abilities of the student (which are at least in the average range) and/or achievement that is only sustainable with high level of effort and/or extensive support.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ Assessment reports and results are in compliance with PPM 8;
- ✓ Psycho-educational assessment completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario;
- ✓ Assessment measures are based on Canadian norms where possible, are culturally sensitive, and are provided to the student in accessible format, as required (e.g., sign language, Braille, large print);

Intellectual

Giftedness

An unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular school program to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated.

Major Indicators:

- Performance scores on Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) and discussion at school Resource Team.
- Allowable accommodations are insufficient to meet student need.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ CCAT results with a composite standard age score of at least 130 (98th percentile rank) which typically means 9th stanine results on two of three subtests;
- ✓ If from outside the board: Psycho-educational assessment completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario, with Canadian norms, at the 98th percentile rank or higher on a Full Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ) or General Ability Index (GAI);
- ✓ AAB or equivalent standardized assessment of academic achievement has been completed when deemed appropriate by the school Resource Team.

Mild Intellectual Disability

A learning disorder characterized by:

- a) an ability to profit educationally within a regular class with the aid of considerable curriculum modification and supportive service;
- b) an inability to profit educationally within a regular class because of slow intellectual development;
- c) a potential for academic learning, independent social adjustment, and economic self-support.

Major Indicators:

- Student is not meeting grade expectations;
- Student requires accommodations/modifications to the pace, complexity and/or grade level expectations.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ Psycho-educational assessment completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario;
- ✓ Cognitive functioning that falls in the very low range;
- ✓ Not the result of impairments in vision, hearing, physical limitations, developmental disability, emotional problems or cultural differences.

Developmental Disability

A severe learning disorder characterized by:

- a) an inability to profit from a Special Education Program for students with mild intellectual disabilities because of slow intellectual development;
- b) an inability to profit from a Special Education Program that is designed to accommodate slow intellectual development;
- c) a limited potential for academic learning, independent social adjustment, and economic self-support.

Major Indicators:

- Student is not able to meet grade level expectations;
- Student is not able to perform age appropriate activities of daily living and personal independence without assistance;
- Allowable accommodations are insufficient.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ Assessments meets the criteria of an Intellectual Disability as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM5);
- ✓ Psycho-educational assessments completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario;
- ✓ Medical Assessments completed by qualified member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario may be accepted;
- ✓ Cognitive functioning that falls in the very low to extremely low range with significant delays in adaptive functioning;
- ✓ Assessment measures are based on Canadian norms where possible; are culturally sensitive and are provided to students in an accessible format, as required;
- ✓ Not the result of impairments in vision, hearing, physical limitations, emotional problems or cultural differences.

Physical

Physical Disability

A condition of such severe physical limitation or deficiency as to require special assistance in learning situations to provide the opportunity for educational achievement equivalent to that of students without exceptionalities who are of the same age or developmental level.

Major Indicators:

- Physical limitation where accommodations and modifications are essential for the student to access the curriculum and/or alternate program.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ Diagnosis by a qualified medical practitioner belonging to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario;
- ✓ Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy assessment may be required to delineate functional needs.

MULTIPLE

Blind and Low Vision

A condition of partial or total impairment of sight or vision that even with correction affects educational performance adversely.

Major Indicators:

- Accommodations are extensive;
- Allowable accommodations have proven to be ineffective.

Supporting Assessment:

- ✓ Diagnosed by an Ophthalmologist, certified by the Ontario College of Optometrists.

Multiple

Multiple Exceptionalities

A combination of learning or other disorders, impairments, or physical disabilities, that is of such nature as to require, for educational achievement, the services of one or more teachers holding qualifications in Special Education and the provision of support services appropriate for such disorders, impairments, or disabilities.

Criteria for identification:

- Student meets the criteria for identification in two or more exceptionalities with supporting documentation and/or assessment provided by the appropriate practitioners

The Board's IPRC applies the above categories and definitions in making decisions with respect to identification and placement by reviewing all information including assessment documentation, reporting detailed in the OSR, and anecdotal references from board personnel, parent/guardians and agencies:

- to develop a shared understanding of a student's current strengths, needs and learning profile;
- to compare available information with the board's IPRC decision making and assessment criteria;
- to ensure consistent interpretation and application of Ministry of Education requirements.

Standard 9: SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENTS PROVIDED BY THE BOARD

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of range of placements provided by the Board, and to inform the public that placement of a student in regular class is the first option considered by an Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

~~Grand Erie District School Board believes that "if a student's needs can be met in a regular classroom with accommodations and modifications, placement should be in a regular class in the home school." (P1: Special Education Guiding Principles, 2017). We also believe that "the individual needs of some students with specific exceptionalities are such that placement within a self-contained class can also be the most enabling." (P1: Special Education Guiding Principles, 2017).~~

SEAC participates in the review of self-contained classes, their locations and nature. Additionally, SEAC members were involved in the development of the Special Education Guiding Principles, which provides direction to the nature, and focus of congregated classes in Grand Erie.

Regular Class:

Placement in a regular class should be considered as the first option:

- ~~Differentiated instruction and assessment and~~ appropriate accommodations and modifications should be in place;
- Classroom Teachers should receive ~~appropriate~~ training in evidence-based strategies that improve student's learning (Learning for All: A Guide to Effective Assessment and Instruction for All Students, Kindergarten to Grade 12);
- Support from the Learning Resource Teacher should be provided to classroom teachers to build capacity and improve classroom instruction.
- Educational Assistants can assist with the implementation of the programming for students with medical and safety needs;
- System special education support staff build the capacity of schools to meet the broad range of student special education needs. ~~(P1: Special Education Guiding Principles, 2017).~~

~~Grand Erie is committed to fostering an inclusive culture in schools. "The culture of the school is essential in fostering an attitude of inclusion, and an attitude of inclusion recognizes and values the tiered approach to the provision of special education programs and services. An attitude of inclusion ensures that students in self-contained classes are welcomed and integrated into their school communities." (P1 Special Education Guiding Principles, 2017).~~

The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) always begins with regular class placement in mind but may determine that a self-contained setting with a high degree of expertise and support is required to meet the student's needs.

~~Grand Erie is committed to fostering an inclusive culture in schools. "The culture of the school is essential in fostering an attitude of inclusion, and an attitude of inclusion recognizes and values the tiered approach to the provision of special education programs and services. An attitude of inclusion ensures that students in self-contained classes are welcomed and integrated into their school communities." (P1 Special Education Guiding Principles, 2017).~~

When more intensive support is required for a student, self-contained placement may be considered. "Educational implications of participation in self-contained programs should be discussed with the parents and students through the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (I.P.R.C)."~~(P1:~~

[Special Education Guiding Principles, 2017](#)). When a self-contained placement may be appropriate, it is a consultative process which honours the voices of parents, school staff, program support staff and the student. When an IPRC confirms the student is exceptional and determines placement into a self-contained program is appropriate, discussion of program options may occur as follows:

- discussion may include the type of Special Education Services, the degree of curriculum modification, and any need for personalized equipment;
- provides some direction for the IEP;
- does not commit to a specific location or specific amount of individualized support (location is not part of the IPRC and is not subject to the appeal process).

To further support integrated programming, the sub-category of Delivery Options, Special Education Class, states “integration into regular program should occur, in consultation with the parents/guardians, as it is deemed appropriate for the individual pupil by the School Principal”.

The ways in which a student may be integrated into the regular, age-appropriate classroom are as follows:

- integrated on a regularly scheduled basis for specific subjects or periods of time;
- integrated on the basis of specific content in a subject area;
- integrated on days when special events occur;
- integrated for assemblies;
- integrated into social situations.

When being integrated into a regular class the student may receive support from an Educational Assistant. When the student’s placement is a Special Education Class with Partial Integration the student must be integrated into a regular class for at least one instructional period daily. When integration does occur for a student whose placement is in a self-contained program, it does not exceed 49% of the school day.

Types of placements provided at the elementary and secondary levels:

There are five placement options available to students in elementary and secondary levels.

Regular Class

- Indirect Support
- Direct Support (Resource Assistance)
- Withdrawal Assistance

Self-contained Class

- Partial Integration
- Full Time

The following one or more criteria are considered for admission to a self-contained class placement:

- the student requires a uniquely designed individual program for more than 50% of the day;
- the student requires a range of specialized instructional support for more than 50% of the day;
- the student requires a classroom environment containing specialized facilities.

Admission to placement will occur as soon as possible. The student may require support or services in the regular class placement while waiting for admission to a special class.

The level of support provided in each placement, including the assignment of intensive support, is determined by:

- needs of students within a school;
- needs of students within a Family of Schools;
- needs of students throughout the entire Board;

The level of support for individual students is based on student needs, such as:

- safety - to self or others;
- medical issues;
- academic;
- social /emotional;
- physical;
- alternative programming;
- augmentative communication.

An IPRC may recommend a change in a students' placement if:

- the student requires a placement that permits a greater focus on the goals and objectives of the Individual Education Plan (IEP);
- the student is meeting goals and objectives more closely approximating the expectation of the Ontario Curriculum and requires a program more focused on those goals and objectives.

When the needs of a student cannot be met within the Board's range of placements, an IPRC may support one of the following temporary or permanent placements:

- Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI)
- Education Programs in Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional Facilities
- Amethyst School (for students with ADHD and/or severe learning disabilities)
- Trillium School (for students with severe learning disabilities)
- Robarts School (for students who are deaf /hard of hearing)
- W. Ross Macdonald School (for students who are blind/deaf-blind)

Options for placement outside the Board are communicated to the parent/guardians before the IPRC through:

- case conferences.
- visit to the outside placement.

SEAC is presented with a general overview of the philosophy of types of placements available and changing needs for Self-contained program throughout the Board. They provide feedback and discussion about the philosophy and changing needs. A final copy of the Self-contained Classes and their locations is then shared with SEAC as information.

Most students identified as exceptional within Grand Erie DSB are placed in a regular class. The document that follows identifies the location of the special classes within the Board for the 2020-21 school year.

Elementary Self Contained 2021-2022	
School	Class
Brant North	
Cedarland	Life Skills
Centennial Grand Woodlands	Life Skills
Cobblestone	Transitions
Cobblestone	Life Skills
Graham Bell	Intensive Support - Autism
Grandview	Intensive Support - Autism
Greenbrier	Intensive Support - Autism
Greenbrier	Int Transitions
Greenbrier	Life Skills
Prince Charles	Intensive Support - Multi-Handicap
Prince Charles	Intensive Support - Autism
Russell Reid	Transitions
Russell Reid	Strategies - Autism
Brant South	
Agnes Hodge	Intensive Support - Multi-Handicap
Branlyn	Strategies
James Hillier	Intensive Support - Autism
Ryerson Heights	Life Skills
Haldimand	
Caledonia Centennial	Strategies
Hagersville Elem	Life Skills
Hagersville Elem	Transitions
JL Mitchener	Intensive Support - Autism
Mapleview	Intensive Support - Autism
Thompson Creek	Intensive Support - Autism
Norfolk	
Bloomsburg	Intensive Support - Autism
Bloomsburg	Transitions
Boston	Gifted
Delhi Public	Strategies
Langton	Intensive Support - Autism
Lynndale Hts	Life Skills

Secondary Self Contained 2021-2022	
School	Class
Brant North	
North Park	Bridge
North Park	Vocational Skills 1
North Park	Vocational Skills 2
North Park	Intensive Support - Autism
Paris District	Bridge
Paris District	Life Skills
Brant South	
Pauline Johnson	Vocational Skills
Pauline Johnson	Intensive Support - Multi-Handicap
Pauline Johnson	Intensive Support - Multi-Handicap
Pauline Johnson	Life Skills
Pauline Johnson	Life Skills
Pauline Johnson	Life Skills
Pauline Johnson	Bridge
Tollgate	Bridge
Tollgate	Vocational Skills
Tollgate	Vocational Skills
Tollgate	Intensive Support - Autism
Tollgate	Intensive Support - Autism
Tollgate	Life Skills
Tollgate	Life Skills
Tollgate	Bridge
Haldimand	
Cayuga Secondary School	Vocational Skills
Cayuga Secondary School	Life Skills 1
Cayuga Secondary School	Life Skills 2
Cayuga Secondary School	Intensive Support - Autism
Cayuga Secondary School	Intensive Support - Autism
Cayuga Secondary	Bridge
Cayuga Secondary	Intensive Support - Multi-Handicap
Hagersville Sec	Vocational Skills
Hagersville Sec	Bridge
Norfolk	
Simcoe Composite	Bridge

Simcoe Composite	Vocational Skills
Simcoe Composite	Life Skills
Simcoe Composite	Life Skills
Simcoe Composite	Bridge
Valley Hts	Vocational Skills
Waterford DHS	Life Skills 1
Waterford DHS	Life Skills 2
Waterford DHS	Intensive Support - Multi-Handicap

**SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENTS/PROGRAMS
 PROVIDED BY THE BOARD
 2019-2020**

Self-Contained Class/Program	Criteria for Placement	Class Capacity
<p>Autism (ASD) Self-Contained (Intensive Support- Autism 2021-22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides individualized programming for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Programming will align with the individual strengths and needs of the student – including modified or alternative curriculum; Programming will support the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), as outlined in Ministry of Education PPM 140; Programming will include individualized transition plans for students, as outlined in PPM 140. 	<p>Placement in an ASD Class may be recommended through the Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process to a student who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified as an exceptional student through the IPRC process under the category of Communication: Autism; Evidence that ongoing interventions in regular class have been insufficient to meet the student's needs, including the utilization of ABA strategies, interventions and transition supports; Evidence that smaller class size and program structure will allow the child to thrive and be more successful in their school environment. 	6
<p>Developmental Disabilities Class (DD) (Lifeskills 2020-21)</p> <p>The program in a self-contained DD <u>Life Skills</u> class focuses on developing functional skills for the highest possible level of personal independence. The program is developed based on the student's individual needs in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional Academics – literacy and numeracy skills that are relevant and meaningful to the student. Some students will be at a pre-academic stage of learning. Social Skills – demonstrating appropriate social behaviours in a variety of settings both in the school and in the community Skills for Independent Living – encompass a wide range of skills including: personal care and hygiene, shopping and food preparation, cleaning and organizing tasks, transportation and community safety skills, pre-vocational skills), and recreation Communication Skills – communicating for different purposes in a variety of settings; some students may require assistive or augmentative means of communication Self-advocacy skills – asking for help when help is required; making choices and decisions; speaking up when there is a problem 	<p>Placement in a Self-Contained <u>Lifeskills</u> Developmental Disabilities Class may be recommended through the IPRC process when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student has been Identified through the IPRC process under the category of Intellectual: Developmental Disability; The student requires a program that focuses on functional skills for daily living and personal independence; Evidence that smaller class size and program structure will allow the child to thrive and be more successful in their school environment; The student will require a supported living environment and supported employment in the future 	10

<p>Gifted Self-Contained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided at the Elementary Level (Grade 5-8); • Provides differentiated learning experiences of depth and breadth beyond the regular curriculum; • Provides opportunity for collaboration, learning and leadership with peers of similar intellectual abilities; • Programming focuses on critical and high order thinking skills, creativity, problem solving, research, technology, and metacognition; • Integration into regular class setting as appropriate for individual student needs and as school schedules allow. 	<p>Placement in a Gifted class may be recommended at the Grade 5-8 level through the system IPRC process to a student who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified as an exceptional student through the IPRC process under the category of Intellectual: Gifted; • Evidence that ongoing interventions in regular class and enrichment program have been insufficient to meet the student's academic or social/emotional needs; • May exhibit exceptionally high performance beyond grade level expectations in numerous subject areas which can be better addressed in a congregated setting with students of similar intellectual abilities. 	25
<p>Secondary Programs that may benefit Students who are Gifted or Cognitively Advanced (Note: These programs are not designed specifically for students with special education needs (i.e. Gifted))</p> <p>The academic stream at Secondary meets the programming needs of many students with Gifted and/or Enriched learning needs.</p> <p>Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are available at North Park Collegiate and Pauline Johnson. Advanced placement courses allow students to pursue university-level studies while in high school. Many universities grant credits to high-achieving AP exam writers. AP courses are currently offered in Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Literature, French, Physics, and Studio Art at different Grand Erie schools. Offerings vary year by year.</p> <p>The Laurier Program is offered at Brantford Collegiate Institute in partnership with Wilfred Laurier University- Brantford Campus. The program engages students in experiential learning opportunities with a multi-disciplinary approach focused on: computer design and media, entrepreneurship, game design, and STEAM education. There is an application process to be accepted to the Laurier Program.</p> <p>S.O.A.R. Elite Academy of Athletics is available at Pauline Johnson. This program requires that students excel in three main areas: academics, athletics, and leadership. Student athletes in this program are expected to be self directed, self motivated, dedicated to fitness, academics and positive character, and</p>	<p>Registration in these courses and programs is determined at the school that holds the program.</p>	Class size varies by program and enrollment.

<p>receptive to a holistic training approach and constructive feedback.</p> <p>Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) – Students participating in a SHSM complete a bundle of classroom courses, workplace experiences, and sector certifications to receive a special designation on their diploma. A SHSM can prepare students for apprenticeships, college, university or the workforce</p>		
<p>Mixed Exceptionality (ME) / Self Contained (Transitions 2020-21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in Elementary beginning in Grade 4 (available beginning Grade 7 2020-21) • Programming will align with individual strengths and needs of the student – modified or alternative curriculum; • Individualized programming in literacy and numeracy is modified to the degree that significant achievement gaps can be addressed; • Alternative programming in the area of pre employment and employment skills; • Allows for integration into the regular class in subject areas of strength up to 49% of the day; • Programming in the self contained class can be for credit • Placements option is partially contained. 	<p>Placement in a Mixed Exceptionalities class may be recommended beginning in Grade 4 (Grade 7 2020-21) through the IPRC process to a student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is identified as an exceptional student through the IPRC process; • Evidence that ongoing interventions in regular class have been insufficient to meet the student's academic or social/emotional needs; 	16
<p>Mild Intellectual Disability (MID) Transitions Self Contained Elementary (Transitions 2020-21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in Elementary beginning in Grade 4 (available beginning Grade 7 2020-21)7 • Programming will align with individual strengths and needs of the student - modified or alternative curriculum; • Individualized programming in literacy and numeracy is modified to the degree that significant achievement gaps can be addressed; • Alternative programming in the area of personal living skills, pre-employment and employment skills (vocational); • Allows for integration into the regular class in subject areas of strength up to 49% of the day; • Programming in the self-contained class is not for credit • Secondary placements options are available for both fully and partially contained. 	<p>Placement in a MID (Transitions) class may be recommended beginning in Grade 4 (Grade 7 2020-21)7 through the IPRC process to a student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is identified as an exceptional student through the IPRC process, usually within the category intellectual: Mild Intellectual Disability; • Evidence that ongoing interventions in regular class have been insufficient to meet the student's academic or social/emotional needs; • Where there is evidence that the student will be unable achieve enough credits in Secondary School to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Opportunity for graduation with some credits would result in a Certificate. 	16

<p>Multi-Handicapped (MH) Self-Contained (Intensive Support- Multi Handicapped 2021-22)</p> <p>The program in an MH class focuses on individual goals for each student to meet his or her specific needs in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical and Safety needs; • Personal Care - feeding and toileting; • Physical/Motor – physical therapy needs as per Physiotherapist (PT) and Occupational Therapist (OT) recommendation; developing gross and fine motor skills; • Cognitive and Sensory – stimulating students’ minds through various modalities (sight, touch, hearing, taste, smell); developing understanding of cause and effect; building functional skills (e.g. sorting, matching); • Communication – developing communication skills based on recommendations from Speech/Language Pathologist (SLP) reports; providing authentic opportunities to motivate the student to communicate; students may require assistive or augmentative means of communication; • Social Interaction – providing opportunities for students to participate in meaningful social interactions with people beyond the MH classroom; • Self-help – developing skills toward greater independence (e.g. eating with a spoon; washing hands). 	<p>Placement in a Self-Contained Intensive Support - Multi-Handicapped Class may be recommended through the IPRC process when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student is Identified through IPRC process under the category Multiple; • Student has both significant physical and intellectual impairments; • Student requires a high level of support for physical or medical needs (toileting, feeding, mobility, supervision for safety). 	6
<p>On-Track Bridge Self-Contained -Secondary (Bridge 2020-21)</p> <p>Bridge On-Track is an intensive resource program for students who are able to focus on only two or three periods of credit-bearing courses. A classroom teacher and EA work with students individually to support success in their other classes, while encouraging positive social interactions. Bridge On-Track is only 1 or 2 sections a semester. On Track sections on their own are not for credit.</p>	<p>Students are not placed in Bridge classes On-Track by an IPRC. On Track is timetabled for students who are identified as requiring a high degree of additional support as a result of behaviour or social/emotional needs.</p> <p>On Track sections are for secondary students who have been identified at elementary transition meetings prior to the student entering secondary school and can also be recommended by the secondary In School Resource Team.</p>	16
<p>Strategies Self-Contained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies classes are offered at the Elementary level for both Primary and for Junior/Intermediate age level; • Provides individualized Behaviour Support Programming; • Programming will align with individual strengths and needs of the student - modified or alternative curriculum; 	<p>Placement in a Strategies classroom may be recommended from SK to 8 level through the System IPRC process to student who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified as an exceptional student through the IPRC process under the category of Behaviour; 	8

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on self advocacy, recognizing personal triggers and self regulation; • Allows for integration into the regular class in subject areas of strength up to 49% of the day; • Increased Behaviour Counsellor support; • Goal is for students to acquire the necessary skills to return to regular class within 2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that learning gaps are the outcome of behaviour, and not an overall low level of cognitive development or Learning Disability. • Evidence that ongoing interventions in the regular classroom, as outlined in an Behaviour and Safety Plan, have been insufficient to meet the students' needs; • Evidence that smaller class size and program structure will allow the needed focus on alternative behaviour goals 	
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Standard 10: INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEP)

The purpose of the standard is to inform the ministry and the public about the ways in which the Board is complying with Ministry requirements for implementing IEPs.

Grand Erie strives to plan an educational program for a student with special education needs through communication among:

- School Team members
- Parents/guardians
- School board and community professionals involved with the student
- The student (where appropriate)

IEP development is a collaborative process that is usually initiated by the school, after collection of observation and assessment data that reveals some difficulty accessing the curriculum. Parents may inquire about the initiation of an IEP through their child's classroom teacher, the Learning Resource Teacher, or the school principal.

While each school has an individual process for IEP development and implementation, in general the Learning Resource Teacher coordinates the development of the IEP while the classroom teacher is responsible for decisions related to program planning. The principal monitors overall implementation.

School staff participate in consultation with parents/guardians and students at various phases in the process. Consultation may take the form of a letter requesting input, a phone call, a meeting, or other appropriate informal or formal consultation methods. An IEP information brochure called *Individual Education Plan (IEP) – A Guide for Parents* is available for schools to share with families and is found in Appendix F of this document.

The IEP process follows five phases:

1. Gathering information
2. Setting the direction
3. Developing the IEP to include the student's special education program and services
4. Implementing the IEP
5. Reviewing and updating the IEP

The Individual Education Plan is divided into the following sections:

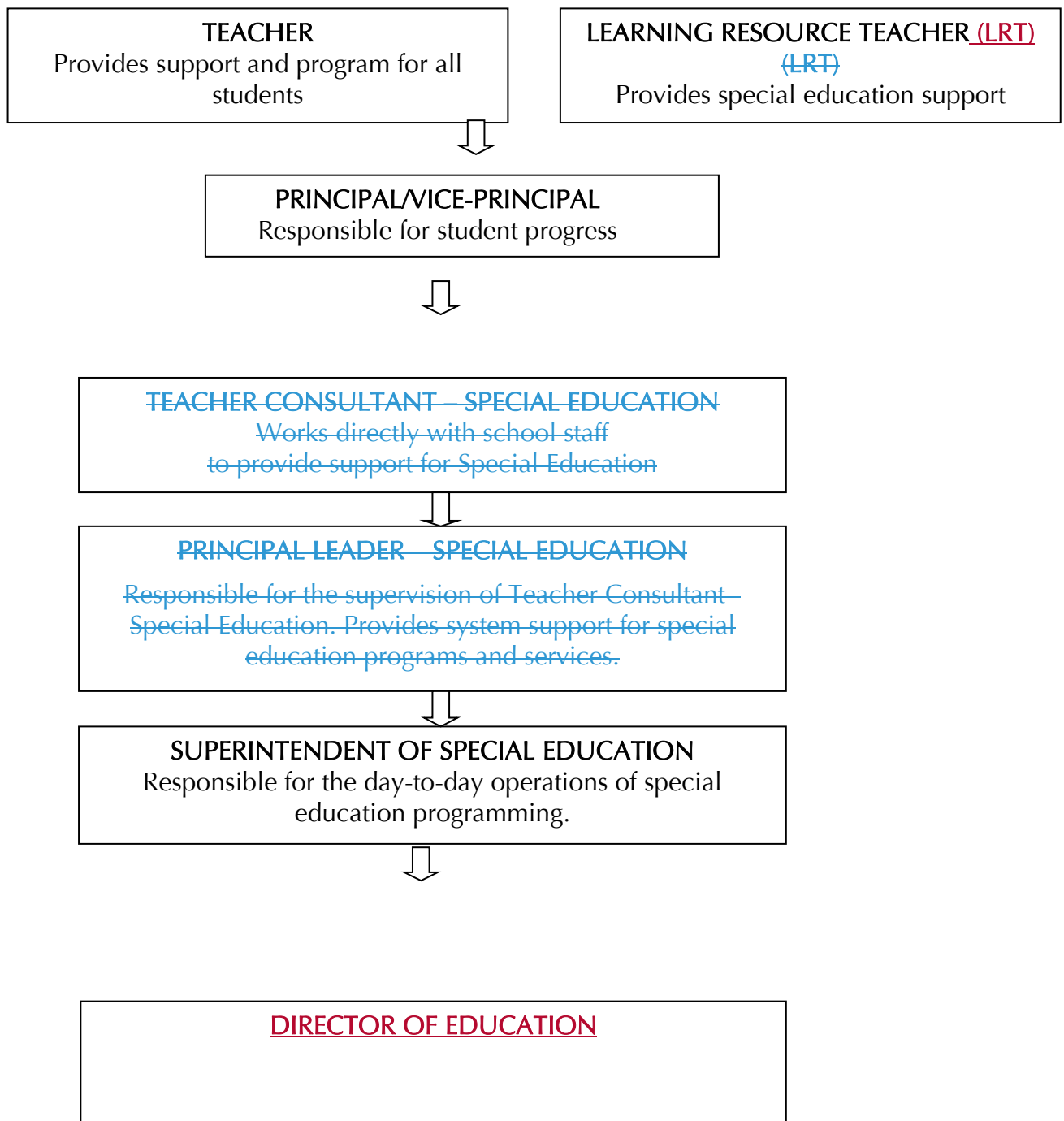
- i. Identification
 - Reason for development of the IEP
 - Placement information
 - IEP completion date
 - IEP revision date
 - Student Profile
 - Ontario Education Number (OEN)
 - Exceptionality
 - IPRC Placement Decision (as applicable)
 - IEP Development Team
 - Assessment
 - Relevant Educational & Clinical Assessment Data
 - Strengths
 - Needs

- Health Support Services
- Accommodations
- Instructional Accommodations
- Environmental Accommodations
- Assessment Accommodations
- ii. Human Resources
- iii. Equipment
- iv. Provincial Assessments
 - Permitted Accommodations
 - Exemptions from Provincial Assessment
- v. Elementary Program Exemptions
- vi. Secondary compulsory course substitutions
- vii. Program Areas
 - Modified Programs
 - Accommodations
 - Alternative Programs
 - Baseline Level of Achievements
 - Annual Program Goal
 - Learning Expectations, Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods
 - Teaching Strategies
 - Strengths/Areas for Improvement/Next Steps
- viii. Transition Plan
- ix. Sources consulted in the Development of the IEP
- x. Parent/Student Consultation
- xi. Staff Review & IEP Updating

A blank IEP template showing each of the above sections is found in Appendix G of this Special Education Plan.

The IEP is a working document that is adjusted to match assessment data on an ongoing basis. -It is reviewed and updated at the beginning of each reporting period in response to assessment from the previous term/semester.- The IEP process is cyclical and involves repeated review, evaluation, and adjustment. -There should be a clear link between the learning expectations outlined in the IEP and the Progress Report and Provincial Report Card.

Collaboration between school staff and parents is essential. When parents have questions or concerns about their child's Individual Education Plan, or special education programming, these are best addressed at the school level, always beginning with the classroom teacher or learning resource teacher. ~~The chart below indicates the appropriate steps to follow if a parent/guardian feels that a question or concern has not been adequately addressed:~~ If a parent feels that their question or concern has not been adequately addressed, they should then discuss the issue with the school principal. The Superintendent of Special Education is also able to assist with unresolved concerns and can be contacted at the Education Centre (519-756-6301).



Teacher Consultants for Special Education are assigned to specific schools and work directly with school staff to provide special education support. The Principal Leader for Special Education provides system support for special education programs and services. These staff are also available to assist parents with questions or concerns related to a student's Individual Education Plan. A school principal may arrange a meeting between parents, school staff, system staff, and/or the Superintendent of Special Education in order to seek a mutual understanding.

Parents may not agree with everything in an IEP or the focus may differ from their requests. Schools are responsible for establishing a program that best suits a child's strengths and needs while at school.

July ~~2021~~ ~~2020~~ 2021

The school principal is ultimately responsible for the initiation, implementation, and review of the IEP and ensuring that the parent is consulted in its development. The principal is not obliged to accept every parental suggestion but must give appropriate consideration to requests. The principal should provide reasons for not including parental requests in the IEP. If parents disagree with significant aspects of the IEP, they may request a meeting with appropriate school and board staff.

If all attempts at dispute resolution related to the IEP have been unsuccessful, a parent may contact the Ministry of Education for clarification or assistance. The Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario

may also assist. The Ontario Ombudsman oversees all aspects of public education in Ontario and can help with unresolved complaints or investigate systemic issues. Parents can fill out an online complaint form with the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario, call 1-800-263-1830, or email for assistance at info@ombudsman.on.ca.

Standard 11: PROVINCIAL AND DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO

The purpose of the standard is to provide the public with information about the Provincial and Demonstration Schools that are operated for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind, or who have severe learning disabilities, which may include attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Provincial and Demonstration Schools:

- are operated by the Ministry of Education;
- provide education for students who are deaf or blind or deaf-blind or who have severe learning disabilities;
- provide an alternative education option;
- serve as regional resource centres for students who are deaf, blind, deaf-blind, or learning disabled;
- provide preschool home visiting services for students who are deaf or blind or deaf-blind;
- develop and provide learning materials and media for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind;
- provide school board teachers with resource services;
- play a valuable role in teacher training.

a) **W. Ross Macdonald School: School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind**

W. Ross Macdonald School is located in Brantford and provides education for students who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind. The school provides:

- a provincial resource centre for the visually impaired and deaf-blind;
- support to local school boards through consultation and the provision of special learning materials, such as Braille materials, audiotapes, and large-print textbooks;
- professional services and guidance to Ministries of Education on an interprovincial, cooperative basis.

Programs are tailored to the needs of the individual student and:

- are designed to help these students learn to live independently in a non-sheltered environment;
- are delivered by specially trained teachers;
- follow the Ontario curriculum developed for all students in the Province;
- offer a full range of courses at the secondary level;
- offer courses in special subject areas such as music, broad-based technology, family studies, physical education, and mobility training;
- are individualized, to offer a comprehensive “life skills” program;
- provide through home visiting for parent/guardians and families of preschool deaf-blind children to assist in preparing these children for future education.

W. Ross Macdonald provides a range of resource services and outreach programs to families and school boards in support of students who are blind, deafblind, or low vision. A referral process is in place for individual students to be seen by resource consultants. After consultation with the Resource Team, a school may submit a referral through the Provincial Schools website to request an educational/functional vision assessment for a student who is blind or visually impaired. Schools may also complete a workshop request form for a personalized workshop on a topic related to vision.

Considerations for placement of existing Grand Erie students at W. Ross Macdonald must go through the Resource Team process for discussion. If the Resource Team determines that it is appropriate to undertake a formal request for placement and if the parent is in support, a request should be made by the Special Education Teacher Consultant who will coordinate a System IPRC.

Students moving into Grand Erie to specifically to attend W. Ross Macdonald must complete registration paperwork at the home school. The home school principal or W. Ross Macdonald contacts the Program Coordinator for Special Education to arrange a System IPRC.

b) Provincial Schools for the Deaf

The following Provincial Schools offer services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students:

- Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville (serving eastern Ontario);
- Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton (serving central and northern Ontario);
- Robarts School for the Deaf in London (serving western Ontario);
- Centre Jules-Léger in Ottawa (serving francophone students and families throughout Ontario).

Admittance to a Provincial School is determined by the Provincial Schools Admission Committee in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 296.

These schools provide elementary and secondary school programs for deaf students from preschool level to high school graduation. The curriculum follows the Ontario curriculum and parallels courses and programs provided in school boards. Each student has his/her special needs met as set out in his/her IEP.

Schools for the deaf:

- provide rich and supportive bilingual/bicultural educational environment which facilitate students language acquisition, learning, and social development through American Sign Language (ASL) and English;
- operate primarily as day schools;
- provide residential facilities five days per week for those students who do not live within reasonable commuting distance from the school. (residence is provided for those students who live over 70 kilometers from the school)

Each school has a Resource Services Department, which provides:

- consultation and educational advice to the parent/guardian of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and school board personnel;
- information brochures;
- a wide variety of workshops for the parent/guardian, school boards, and other agencies;
- an extensive home-visiting program delivered to the parent/guardian of deaf and hard-of-hearing preschool children by teachers trained in preschool and deaf education.

If a Grand Erie school requires support with the delivery of program to a student who is Deaf or hard of hearing, it should first contact Grand Erie's Teacher Technician for SEA – Hearing to ensure that the student's equipment needs are being met. If additional supports are required, under the guidance of the SEA Teacher Technician – Hearing, the school may then request consultative services from a Provincial School.

Considerations for placement at a Provincial School must go through the Resource Team process for discussion. If the Resource Team determines that it is appropriate to undertake a formal request for placement and if the parent is in support, a request should be made by the Special Education Teacher Consultant who will coordinate a System IPRC. The IPRC placement decision must indicate that Grand Erie supports placement at a Provincial School before a student will be admitted.

Provincial School Contacts

Teachers may obtain additional information from the Resource Services Departments of the Provincial Schools and the groups listed below.

Provincial Schools Branch, Ministry of Education

Provincial Schools Branch
 255 Ontario Street South
 Milton, Ontario
 L9T 2M5
 Tel.: (905) 878-2851 Fax: (905) 878-5405

Schools for the Deaf

The Ernest C. Drury
 School for the Deaf
 255 Ontario Street, S.
 Milton, Ontario
 L9T 2M5
 Tel.: (905) 878-2851
 Fax: (905) 878-1354
 Fax: (613) 967-2857

The Robarts School
 for the Deaf
 1090 Highbury Avenue
 London, Ontario
 N5Y 4V9
 Tel.: (519) 453-4400
 Fax: (519) 453-7943

The Sir James Whitney
 School for the Deaf
 350 Dundas Street West
 Belleville, Ontario
 K8P 1B2
 Tel.: (613) 967-2823

School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind

W. Ross Macdonald School
 350 Brant Avenue
 Brantford, Ontario
 N3T 3J9
 Tel.: (519) 759-0730
 Fax: (519) 759-4741

School for the Deaf, Blind, and Deaf-Blind

Centre Jules-Léger
 281 rue Lanark
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1Z 6R8
 Tel.: (613) 761-9300
 Fax: (613) 761-9301

Provincial Demonstration Schools

The Ministry of Education provides the services of four Provincial Demonstration Schools for Ontario children with severe learning disabilities.

These schools are the following:

Amethyst School
 1090 Highbury Avenue
 London, Ontario
 N5Y 4V9
 Tel.: (519) 453-4408
 Fax: (519) 453-2160

Centre Jules-Léger
 281 rue Lanark
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1Z 6R8
 Tel.: (613) 761-9300/761-9304
 Fax: (613) 761-9301
 TTY: (613) 761-9302

Sagonaska School
 350 Dundas Street West
 Belleville, Ontario
 K8P 1B2
 Tel.: (613) 967-2830
 Fax: (613) 967-2482

Trillium School
 347 Ontario Street South
 Milton, Ontario
 L9T 3X9
 Tel.: (905) 878-8428
 Fax: (905) 878-7540

Each Provincial Demonstration School has an enrolment of forty students. The language of instruction at the Amethyst, Sagonaska, and Trillium schools is English; at Centre Jules-Léger, instruction is in French.

Application for admission to a Provincial Demonstration School is made on behalf of students by the School Board, with the parent/guardian consent. The Provincial Committee on Learning Disabilities (PCLD) determines whether a student is eligible for admission.

Although the primary responsibility to provide appropriate educational programs for students with learning disabilities remains with School Boards, the Ministry recognizes that some students require a residential school setting for a period of time.

The Provincial Demonstration Schools were established to:

- provide special residential education programs for students between the ages of 5 and 21 years;
- enhance the development of each student's academic and social skills;
- develop the abilities of the students enrolled to a level that will enable them to return to programs operated by a local school board within two years.

In addition to providing residential schooling for students with severe learning disabilities, the Provincial Demonstration Schools have special programs for students with severe learning disabilities in association with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD). These are highly intensive, one-year programs.

If a Grand Erie school requires support with the delivery of program to a student with a severe learning disability, it should first contact Grand Erie's Teacher Technician for SEA – Computers to ensure that the student's equipment needs are being met.

Considerations for placement at a Provincial School must go through the Resource Team process for discussion. If the Resource Team determines that it is appropriate to undertake a formal request for placement and if the parent is in support, a request should be made by the Special Education Teacher Consultant who will coordinate a System IPRC. The IPRC placement decision must indicate that Grand Erie supports placement at a Provincial School before a student will be admitted.

An application binder will be completed by the sending school.

The Trillium School also operates Learning for Emotional and Academic Development (LEAD), a special program for students with severe learning disabilities who require an additional level of social/emotional support.

Further information about the academic, residential, LEAD, and LD/ADHD, programs is available from the Demonstration Schools through the Special Needs Opportunity Window (SNOW).

An in-service teacher education program is provided at each Provincial Demonstration School. This program is designed to share methodologies and materials with teachers of Ontario School Boards. Information about the programs offered should be obtained from the schools themselves.

Following are current statistics (for the school year ~~2020-21~~ 2019-20 with respect to the number of qualified resident students attending Provincial Schools and Provincial Demonstration Schools:

W. Ross Macdonald School~~32~~28
 Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf7
 Robarts School for the Deaf0
 Amethyst Demonstration School.....~~1~~4
Trillium Demonstration School.....2

Transportation is provided for students, and assistants if required, to and from Provincial and Demonstration Schools. Depending on the needs of the students, transportation may be provided by taxi, van, minibus, wheelchair bus or wheelchair taxi.

Standard 12: SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF

The purpose of the standard is to provide specific details on board staff to the ministry and the public.

Special Education Staff	ELEM.	SEC.	Staff Qualifications
Teachers of Exceptional Students			OCT & qualified to teach in Pr/Jr/Int/Sr divisions
Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs)	64 FTE	13 FTE	Special Education (minimum Part I)
Teachers for Self-Contained Classes	32 FTE	39.33 FTE	Special Education (minimum Part I)
Other Special Education teachers			Special Education (minimum Part I)
Principal Leader Special Education	1.0		Principal Qualifications; Special Education Specialist
Program Coordinators (Special Education and Applied Behavioural Analysis)	2.0		Special Education Specialist
Teacher Consultants	Elementary 4.0 Secondary 1.0		Special Education Specialist
Teacher Consultants	3.0		Intellectual Disabilities Gifted, Autism
Teacher Technician	2.0		Assistive Technology Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Educational Assistants in Special Education			
Educational Assistants (includes Transitional Support Educational Assistants)	303		Community College Diploma in field relating to special needs; experience
Lead Educational Assistant	4.0		Community College Diploma in field relating to special needs; experience
Lead Educational Assistant for Special Education Amount (SEA) Support	1.0		Community College Diploma in field relating to special needs; experience

Other Professional Support Services Staff		
School Programs and Supports Lead	1.0	Master's Degree
School Mental Health and Well-Being Lead	1.0	Master's Degree
Psycho-Educational Consultants	6.0	Master's Degree
Speech-Language Pathologists	7.0	Master's Degree in Speech/Language
Communicative Disorder Assistants	7.0	Community College/University
Social Workers	5.0 7.5	Master's Degree in Social Work
Applied Behaviour Analysis Expert	1.0	B.A.
Board Certified Behaviour Analyst	2.0	Master's Degree
Behaviour Counsellors	5.0	B.A. or Child & Youth Services Worker Diploma
Child and Youth Workers	15.0 <u>14.0</u>	Child & Youth Services Worker Diploma
Indigenous Child and Youth Worker	1.0	Child & Youth Services Worker Diploma
Attendance Counsellors	6.0	B.A.
Indigenous Attendance Counsellors	1.0	B.A.

Standard 13: STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the board's professional development plans for special education staff to the Ministry and to the public.

Goal

The goal of the Special Education Staff Development Plan in Grand Erie is to ensure that all staff has current knowledge and skills to provide appropriate support and programming for all students with special needs.

Involving the Stakeholders

Areas for professional development are determined by:

- Ministry of Education
- Senior administration
- System support personnel
- School and area administration
- Special Education and regular classroom teachers/early childhood educators
- Educational Assistants
- Parents/Guardians

Professional Development activities offered by the Board are often determined by staff identifying perceived areas of need. Input is received through the following avenues:

System:

- Special Education/Student Support Services
- Special Education Team (Principal Leader, Coordinator, Consultants, Mental Health & Wellness Lead, School and Program Supports Lead)
- Executive Council, in consultation with school administrators
- The Board's Multi-Year Plan
- The Board's Annual Operating Plans
- System Committees
- Secondary Special Services Department Heads Association
- Leadership Steering Committee

Area:

- Administrators
- Area support staff

Family:

- Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs) and Special Education classroom teachers request in-service
- Teacher Consultants - Special Education identify family needs
- CUPE Professional Development Committee
- School Professional Development Committees

School:

- administrators and staff request in-service for perceived areas of need
- School Councils and Home and School Associations request in-service
- school teams or resource teams request in-service
- school-based professional development committees

SEAC is consulted about staff development in the following ways:

- monthly meetings
- access through the Board's web page
- participation in Ministry of Education training sessions

Professional Development and Training

Priorities in the area of staff development are determined by:

- compliance with Ministry of Education directives, regulations, and initiatives
- response to urgent needs of students, staff and Board
- response to Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results
- related area of emphasis in Special Education
- response to demographic needs as identified by system personnel, community support agencies, medical staff, advocacy groups
- response to health and safety issues.

Staff development is provided in a variety of formats:

- Workshops on Professional Development days, before and after-school sessions, staff meetings at the invitation of school principals, and in the context of system initiatives such as the [Renewed Math Strategy \(RMS\)](#)/Fundamentals of Math, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)
- ~~Monthly training for LRTs on special education processes, Ministry requirements, exceptionalities, etc.~~ Just-in-time training for LRTs on special education processes, Ministry requirements, etc.
- School and system training to develop an understanding of new Ministry requirements is provided as needs arise
- Training to support system programs for new to role staff is on-going (i.e., Individual Education Plan (IEP) writing, Academic Achievement Battery (AAB), Behaviour Management Systems Training (BMS), Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA), Tragic Events Response Team (TERT))
- Conferences are attended by board staff throughout the year by designated staff
- Training in current counselling methods for the purpose of evidence-based and consistent approaches and services delivery.

Awareness of Professional Development Opportunities

Ways in which the School Board staff are made aware of professional development opportunities:

- School Resource Team Meetings, and Support Staff Meetings
- Staff Portal
- Staff email
- Monthly administrator and LRT Special Education newsletters
- Biweekly *Special Edition for Special Education* memo for Special Education Department Staff
- E-teacher electronic bulletin board and registration system
- Board maintained web page
- Family of Schools Administrators' Meetings

Much of our Professional Development work this year involved shifting traditional workshop sessions and resources to a virtual, online model that can be accessed at any time. Staff have been involved with creating resources and videos to post in the Special Education Professional Learning Environment (PLE) in BrightSpace. Any workshops delivered were also recorded and posted in the Special Education PLE.

The following formal Professional Development opportunities ~~sessions~~ were offered during the 2019-20 school year:

Title	Description
Behaviour Management System (BMS)	Multiple sessions offered on PD days, <u>after school</u> , or at school locations where the main goals include improving safety and security for all staff and students, the promotion of respectful working and learning environments and breaking the cycle of inappropriate behaviour and consequences.
BMS Recertification	Recertification session for those already trained in Behaviour Management Systems.
ASIST	Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training for staff only
LRT Training Sessions	Workshops offered throughout the year to highlight new items that affect Learning Resource Teachers – upgrades to LITE, Medical Plans, changes to SEA, transition planning, IEP consultation, alternative programming, Human Rights, etc.
WordQ and other Assistive software	Sessions are available to teachers along with their students in their classrooms. WordQ, and Office 365 basics and strategies for embedding software use into classroom programming were offered. Half day training sessions for teachers on the new version of WordQ were also provided.
iPad Training	Individual training offered by our Lead EA for SEA when iPads are delivered to schools. System LRTs also train individual teachers on the use of student-specific apps. <u>Special training videos were also added this year and are available on the Special Education Professional Learning Environment in Brightspace for staff to access and learn from.</u>
SEA Computer Training	Students who are receiving SEA computer technology for the first time are given training through LEARNStyle, the largest provider of assistive technology training in Ontario. Teachers are given the opportunity to participate in LEARNStyle training sessions, to further their own understanding of technology and how it applies to learning skills and learning styles. <u>Special training sessions were added this year for Virtual Learning Academy teachers.</u> Further, when students are trialling SEA computers, classroom teachers receive an individual consultation session with the SEA Teacher Technician to ensure that they understand the available software and strategies to embed the technology in the student's individualized classroom program.

<u>Apple Collaborative Inquiry</u>	<u>Accessibility tools and apps on iPads can effectively reduce learning barriers for many students. iPads also offer effective teaching tools for staff use. Led by our Educational Technology Department and an Apple trainer, a group of special education staff including Coordinators, Teacher Consultants, Lead EAs, Teacher Technicians, CYWs, Psychological Consultants, SLPs, and CDAs participated in a Collaborative Inquiry to investigate how the iPad could support tasks specific to individual roles. The team met weekly to explore the tools and then bi-weekly and monthly to report back on implementation. The group eventually sub-divided into tool exploration and coaching strategies.</u>
<u>Networking Sessions for Teachers of Special Education Classes</u>	<u>These workshops (i.e. for teachers of Autism, Strategies classes) allowed teachers to explore the use of educational technology, behavior management strategies, resiliency, structured teaching, etc.</u>
<u>IEP Support Sessions</u>	<u>IEP Writing Sessions have been offered at both the school and system level, some open to any teachers and some specialized for self-contained teachers. Support is provided by System LRTs and Special Education Teacher Consultants.</u>
Academic Achievement Battery™ (AAB)	This two-part in-service on our educational assessment tool was delivered to new LRTs. Assessment administration, test interpretation, report writing, and storage of information were covered. Refresher sessions were also offered and open to all LRTs.

Title	Description
New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) – Special Education Presentations	<p>New elementary and secondary teachers received practical ‘Special Education at A Glance’ information, with a focus on the importance of developing a Student Profile and instruction on how to record information in LITE. Student Support Services Staff provide an over view of their roles and how they can support teachers to meet special education needs in the classroom. <u>A series of special education topics were offered to NTIP teachers for virtual attendance on a voluntary basis:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>• How Do I Know When A Student Needs an IEP?</u> <u>• Following a Student Through Special Education</u> <u>• Self Regulation</u> <u>• All About Alternative Programming</u> <u>• Understanding Anxiety and Grand Erie’s Tiered Approach to Mental Health</u> <u>• Promoting Healthy Relationships and Grand Erie’s Tiered Approach to Mental Health</u> <u>• So You Have A Student With Autism</u> <u>• Differentiating for High Ability Students</u>
Topics in Response to School Requests	<p>Administrators request professional development for their staff members on a regular basis, with training usually delivered at Staff Meetings <u>or during smaller group sessions.</u> or during “Lunch and Learn” sessions. Topics have included: <u>Following A Student With A Learning Disability, Pathway to Modifications, SEA Process, Behaviour Data Tracking and BeSafe Plans, Moving Students Toward Independence, Structured Work Systems, Special Education Pathways in Secondary, Special Education in Grand Erie for VLA Teachers, etc....</u> the SEA process, pathway toward modifications, use of visual supports and alternative communication systems, Microsoft assistive tools, Kurzweil, modifying program in Core French, Autism awareness, Functions of behaviour etc.</p>
Managing Challenging Behaviour	<p>A series of workshops designed to guide staff through the process of creating function-based behavior interventions, strategies to increase appropriate behaviours rather than reinforcing problem behaviours, and class wide interventions.</p>
Pulse	<p>Pulse is a web-based, gamified program to help students identify their own learning style which in turn, helps teachers to differentiate instruction. Pulse is offered through our Virtual Learning environment.</p>
Teaching Numeracy Skills to Students in Self-Contained Classrooms	<p>Presentation of strategies, lesson ideas, and manipulative kits to use with students in Strategies and MID classrooms</p>
Sound Bites	<p>Sound Bites is a kit of phonological awareness activities. Kindergarten teams were trained on the use of Sound Bites at a kindergarten workshop.</p>

Lexia	Lexia is a responsive online literacy intervention tool. The Core5 program can be used with students in grades K-5 who are struggling with literacy. The Power Up program is for students in grades 6 and up. The program covers phonemic awareness, phonics, grammar, vocabulary, and comprehension. One day of face to face training was offered to the LRT and an identified lead Lexia teacher in every elementary school. Some secondary schools also asked to attend. Introductory, <u>implementation, and refresher</u> webinars were also offered to all classroom teachers and administrators. A second webinar focusing on analysis of Lexia data <u>and improving usage/engagement</u> was also offered to teaching staff and principals.
<u>TeachTown Basics and Transition to Adulthood</u>	<u>TeachTown offers a blend of computer-delivered and teacher-led ABA instruction proven to increase a student's vocabulary, listening skills, social-emotional development, independence, academics and cognitive skills. The system automatically adapts based on each individual's progress providing meaningful instruction to all students. This year we have offered TeachTown licenses to students working on alternative curriculum. Introductory, implementation, and coaching training sessions were offered to staff for both programs. Train the Trainer sessions were also offered to Teacher Consultants.</u>
Training for new Transitional Educational Assistant Team	A variety of in-house workshops were offered by our Lead Educational Assistants. Topics included: visual supports, use of Microsoft Office, function of behavior, Picture Exchange Communication System, Autism toolbox, etc.
Topics for Educational Assistants	A variety of topics were offered to Educational Assistants on PD days throughout the school year. Topics included: Microsoft Suite Tools, moving towards independence, level of prompting, Handwriting Without Tears, American Sign Language, Kurzweil, iPad apps, etc.

Title	Description
ABA Training	A wide variety of topics were offered to administrators, teachers, DECE's and EA's throughout the school year. Some topics included: Functions of Behaviour, "The Good Behaviour Game", Three part series: Understanding and managing problem behaviour, Teaching breaks to reduce problem behaviour and Using visuals with students.
Self-Contained Teacher PD	Training on our new Alternative Programming Guide was offered to self contained teachers in elementary and secondary school on a PD Day.

MOE-Funded Autism Training: Online, self-paced courses created by the Geneva Centre for Autism and delivered via the online platform Sonderly. A variety of courses were offered to Educational Assistants, Teachers, and DECEs on topics including introduction to autism, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), functional behaviour assessments, and supporting students with ASD in a play-based environment.

Enhanced Autism Training Program: Ministry-funded pilot project. 11 LRTs who work in schools with a self-contained ASD class participated by completing an online Geneva Centre for Autism course via the online platform Sonderly and consolidating their learning at a full-day live-session (virtual) facilitated by the Geneva Centre for Autism.

Training with regard to the Legislation and Ministry policy on Special Education:

The Board sends Special Education personnel (Superintendent, Principal-Leader, School and Program Supports Lead, Mental Health and Well-Being Lead, Program Coordinator, and Teacher Consultants) to in-services provided by the Ministry of Education on legislation, policy and new initiatives.

These people return to the Board and present the information detailed at the Ministry's in-service to Administrators, Special Education and regular class teachers and other board support personnel. All teachers, including new practitioners, are encouraged to attend. If staff have difficulty with implementation of policies, the Teacher Consultants-Special Education provide further training and support.

In addition, senior special education staff attends the Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) meetings three times per year. Counterparts from other boards in South-Western Ontario and representatives from the Ministry of Education discuss initiatives, share effective programs and services, and discuss emerging issues. The Mental Health and Wellness Lead attends provincial and regional meetings and workshops by School Mental Health ASSIST and Special Interest Groups. The Special Education Management Team attend applicable workshops on education, Special Education, Mental Health legislation provide by Osgoode Professional Development Centre.

Program Coordinator-Special Education and Special Education Teacher Consultants ~~usually continue to attend the~~ Special Education Regional Coordinator/Consultant Conference (SERCC) which meets twice a year to discuss Ministry of Education initiatives, share effective programs and services and discuss emerging issues in Special Education. ~~Our Coordinator/Consultant team hosted one of the SERCC conferences this year. SERCC did not take place this year due to the ongoing COVID pandemic.~~

Budget allocation dedicated to the staff development plan in the area of Special Education:

There are a few components of the Staff Development Budget, which affect Special Education personnel:

- Special Education Teachers can access monies as dictated by their collective agreement and their school Professional Development Committees;
- Professional Student Support Services Staff have a budget determined by their collective agreement to attend conferences/training related to their role;
- CUPE staff also have a collective agreement determined PD amount intended to provide in-service for Special Education and other Support Staff by application to their Professional Development Committee;
- Coordinators and consultants responsible for Special Education can access funds to attend professional development;
- A percentage of total funds allocated for professional development is dedicated to Special Education.

Cost-sharing arrangements for staff development with other ministries or agencies:

- Workshops by teleconference through Contact Brant (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services);
- Regional Autism Forum - Ministry of Education;
- Job Readiness Training - NACL (Norfolk Association of Community Living);
- Early Child Development Centres and Launch Pads;
- Geneva Centre
- ASD, School Support Program-Hamilton Health Sciences;
- Transitional Aged Youth Protocol with Contact Brant
- Autism Spectrum Disorder summer training in London, in support of PPM 140
- LD@School Educators' Summer Institute

Standard 14: EQUIPMENT

The purpose of the standard is to inform the ministry, board staff members and other professionals, and parents about the provision of individualized equipment for some students with special needs.

Procedures for determining individualized equipment purchases for students to use at school comply with those outlined in the Ministry of Education document [Special Education Funding Guidelines – Special Equipment Amount \(SEA\)](#).

With the support of Teacher Consultants-Special Education, schools prepare a Special Equipment Amount (SEA) funding file for each individual student. Some types of equipment (Per Pupil) require approval from the SEA Approval Committee while others require an assessment (Claims Based) from a Speech-Language Pathologist or any other related health care professional or agency indicating that the student requires a specific piece of equipment.

Included in the file for non-computer (Claims-Based) equipment:

- letters of support from the professionals or organizations indicating that:
 - i) the equipment is essential / necessary to help the student benefit from instruction and,
 - ii) the disability that this device will assist with
 - iii) quotes from suppliers for the required equipment, and;
 - iv) a copy of the student's IEP identifying equipment and embedding the equipment in the accommodations and program expectations [to provide evidence of intended use](#).

Included in the file for computer (Per Pupil) equipment:

- evidence that the student is having difficulty accessing curriculum (report cards, educational assessment results, letters of support from the school)
- evidence that the student uses technology willingly and effectively on a regular basis (assistive technology log, work samples)
- a copy of the student's IEP identifying equipment and embedding the equipment in the accommodations and program expectations [to provide evidence of intended use](#)

Requisitions to order equipment can be processed prior to the completion of documentation for trial purposes or after the trial of equipment and documentation is complete. A copy of the requisition is placed in the SEA file. Once documentation is complete, files are submitted to the Program Coordinator, Special Education.

Information contained in the SEA files will be entered to a spreadsheet and submitted to the Area Office according to procedures and dates determined by the Ministry of Education.

Upon receipt of the SEA submissions, the Ministry may audit [randomly selected](#) files. ~~selected at random.~~

The Board assumes the first \$800.00 cost of non-computer equipment purchased for each student.

Not all SEA submissions are approved by the Ministry. The Board may assume the purchase costs of equipment deemed necessary for the student.

Other equipment related to student needs are personal protective equipment and alternate clothing necessary for the safety of staff. The list below indicates some of the required items:

Plexiglas face shields	Loose-fitting tops	Arm pads/gloves (cloth)
Uniforms/lab coats	Leg pads	Safety goggles
Wrist protection	Two-Way FM System	Torso protection

If purchased in significant quantities, some of the items noted above could be SEA fundable.

The Special Equipment Amount (SEA) provides funding to school boards to assist with the costs of equipment essential to support students with special needs, where the need for specific equipment is to provide students with access to the Ontario curriculum or a board-determined program and to attend school. Equipment purchased with SEA funding should be considered as a set of physical assets, which boards have a responsibility to protect, maintain, and manage as a public resource. ~~It is assumed that boards will develop~~ Grand Erie has developed and follows internal operating policies and procedures regarding the purchase, repair, use and disposal of equipment purchased with SEA funding.

There are typically four types of equipment purchased with SEA funds on behalf of students:

1. assistive technology
2. adaptive technology/equipment
3. technology/equipment to support a hearing loss
4. sensory equipment

The Ministry of Education has recently allowed for the SEA Per-Pupil Amount to be used to purchase computer software that increases access to the Ontario curriculum, including reading intervention tools like Lexia.

Specialized training on the use of this equipment is also purchased with SEA funds when required.

School boards' responsibilities include ensuring that:

1. equipment is functioning properly and is meeting students' needs;
2. equipment is replaced as required, when students outgrow equipment or when equipment wears out through use;
3. upgrades and refurbishment are considered as an option before replacement;
4. equipment is reused by other students when no longer required by the student for whom it was purchased;
5. efforts are made to share equipment among several students when appropriate and possible;
6. policies are developed that provide board staff with direction on issues such as:
 - managing transfers between schools and boards;
 - use of equipment in students' home, in co-op placements, and in other program settings, including Section 23 classrooms;
 - staff training on use of SEA funded equipment;
 - inventory records;
 - documenting use of equipment in student's IEPs, where equipment is required to support the student;
7. reasonable efforts are made to acquire a fair market value when disposing of used equipment

Boards are required to internally allocate an adequate amount of additional funding to support the other costs associated with ensuring that all students who need equipment have access to appropriate equipment. These other costs include the \$800 per pupil deductible, the purchase of equipment that costs less than \$800 for students who require low cost items, on-going insurance costs, consumables such as batteries or paper for printouts ~~toner and paper for printers~~, the cost of parts for upgrading or refurbishing equipment and staff costs for managing equipment purchasing, set-up, repairs, training and inspections.

Standard 15: ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The purpose of the standard is to provide the ministry with further details of the board's multi-year plan, which was previously submitted to the ministry, for improving accessibility for students with physical and sensory disabilities, and to provide the public with this information.

The Grand Erie District School Board has approved a multi-year capital expenditure plan for improving accessibility to its buildings, grounds and administrative offices, including resources dedicated to providing barrier-free access in the coming years. The Board's plan includes increasing accessibility to as many school buildings as possible and providing specific facilities to accommodate students with special needs. Accessibility upgrades are considered any time a renovation or addition is made to a building.

Each elementary Family of Schools (Brantford, Brant and Norfolk, Haldimand) has at least one school ranked at Level Three and another at Level 4.

Each secondary Family of Schools (Brantford/Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk) has at least one school ranked at Level Three and another at Level 4.

The criteria provided to rank buildings for each Level of Accessibility is as follows:

- Level One Building cannot be reasonably made accessible.
- Level Two Building is accessible, has some washroom modifications to accommodate wheelchairs and limited interior access.
- Level Three Building has complete access and washroom(s) can accommodate wheelchairs.
- Level Four Meets Level Three plus additional features to accommodate students who are medically fragile.

In addition, to qualify as Level Three the facility should have the following features:

- 'main' entrance convenient for drop off and is wheelchair accessible:
 - includes ramping and rails meeting Ontario Building Code specifications and power door operators on both the exterior and vestibule doors;
 - vestibule must also meet minimum distance requirements.
- all rooms (except stage) within the school are wheelchair accessible:
 - Level Three facilities will be reviewed for interior "hold open" devices;
 - budget costs will be provided to complete the work;
 - cost for each door device is approximately \$1000.
- at least one separate washroom or one male and one female washroom in the school will accommodate wheelchairs:
 - recommendation for future considerations that a separate washroom be designed to accommodate a change table, storage and other specialized equipment.

The Special Education Program Coordinator and Facilities Services Personnel meet as a team to review the suitability of school sites in meeting the needs of students with accessibility needs on a case by case basis.

In addition to the Accessibility Plan, school boards are also required to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) including the Customer Service Standard and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation. The Grand Erie District School Board approved a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan which integrates the requirements of both the Ontarians with Disability Act and the AODA and addresses Employment, Communication and Information, and Transportation. Revisions to the Ontario Building Code related to accessibility for the Built Environment are implemented in all new buildings.

The Grand Erie DSB Accessibility Plan can be found on the Grand Erie DSB's website.

[Grand Erie DSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017-22](#)

Standard 16: TRANSPORTATION

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's transportation policies to the ministry and the public.

The following students with special needs are eligible for transportation:

- students with exceptionalities who would be unable to travel independently due to a variety of reasons to ~~either a regular class or special class placement~~ at their home school;
- students placed in a self-contained class which is not located in their home school;
- students with exceptionalities who would be unable to travel independently due to a variety of reasons to regular class placement will be determined on a case by case basis
- The provision of transportation for students with special education needs requiring a modified day or fresh start will be determined on a case by case basis
- Transportation services are currently being provided for students with the exceptionalities as noted below:
 - Behaviour;
 - Communication: *Autism, Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, Speech & Language Impairment, Learning Disability*;
 - Intellectual: *Giftedness, Mild Intellectual Disability, and Developmental Disability*;
 - Physical: *Physical Disability, Blind and Low Vision*;
 - Multiple: *Multiple Exceptionalities*;
- A student's transportation is usually decided in discussions which follow the IPRC meeting. The Teacher Consultants-Special Education, in conjunction with the IPRC members and the parent(s), discuss the transportation needs. This is then noted on the IPRC Minutes Sheet;
- Transportation may be provided to a child/youth who is attending a care or treatment program if it is on an existing bus route. Transportation is not provided to/from a correctional facility or locations outside of the Board's district boundary;
- Transportation is provided to students who have been placed in a Provincial or Demonstration School through a system IPRC. Students may be transported on a daily, weekly or other basis to and from the school;
- Limited transportation is available for summer school. Currently students are required to congregate at specific locations.

Policy and Procedures were reviewed with respect to special transportation arrangements. The procedures are as follows:

- The School Principal will contact the Teacher Consultant-Special Education.
- The Teacher Consultant-Special Education will complete an "Individual Transportation Plan (ITP)" form in the LITE software system.
- The Principal Leader of Special Education receives an email notice that an Individual Transportation Plan has been submitted for approval.
- Once approved, by the Principal Leader of Special Education, the request is automatically emailed to Transportation Services.
- Transportation Services will contact the School Principal or designated Teacher Consultant for Special Education regarding the transportation arrangements to be implemented if additional information is required that is not listed on the ITP.

Safety criteria that are used by the Board in the tendering and selection of transportation providers for exceptional students are as follows:

- drivers must have emergency first aid training certification and be able to meet the need(s) of the student they are providing service to, as per the ITP and any support plans which may accompany them.
- wheelchairs must be secured during transit.
- all buses require two-way communication
- Rider Aides will be assigned when required on a case by case basis

Standard 17: SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the operation of the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to the ministry and to give the members of the public information to which they are entitled.

Names and Affiliations of Members and Contact Information

Chair:

~~Tom Waldschmidt~~ Wendy Rose – Elected January ~~16, 2020~~ 21, 2021

Vice-Chair:

~~Wendy Rose~~ Paula Boutis – Elected January ~~16, 2020~~ 21, 2021

Local Agency Representatives:

~~LeaAnn Boswell, Information Services Coordinator, Contact Brant 519-758-8228, ext. 228
 (Jane Angus, Contact Brant Alternate)~~

~~Christine Clattenburg, Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services 519-752-5308 ext. 137~~

~~Lorraine DeJong, Lansdowne Children's Centre 519-753-3153, ext. 202~~

~~Nancy Schurr, Haldimand Norfolk R.E.A.C.H. 289-237-5321~~

~~Dr. Louise Scott, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – ONE 519-414-9444~~

Community Living Brant – Tara Buchanan, Supv of Employment Supports 519-753-6303, ext 441

Contact Brant – LeaAnn Boswell, Information Services Coordinator 519-758-8228, ext 228

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – ONE – Dr. Louise Scott 519-414-9444

Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H. – Alicia Csoff, Board of Directors 519-909-9193

Lansdowne Children's Centre -Lorraine DeJong, Social Worker 519-753-3153, ext 202

Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services – Amanda Detmar, Tele-Mental Health
 Coordinator 519-752-5308 ext. 137

Parents/Community Representatives:

Paula Boutis (Vice-Chair) 416-802-3118

Carol Brady 289-244-8743

Beth ~~Caers~~ Bruce / Tammy Sault 905-768-3222

Michelle Carpenter 519-442-7209

Mike Gatopoulos 519-717-0874

Kathy Jones 519-586-8852

Wendy Rose (~~Vice~~-Chair) 519-448-1569

Joe Trovato 289- 218-7592

Tom Waldschmidt (Chair) 519-442-2140

Tara Wilson 226-493-1111

Rochelle Winter 519-720-6778

Native Representative:

Vacant

Trustees:

Rita Collver) 519-582-4969

Tom Waldschmidt 519-442-2140

Alternates Brian Doyle 519-587-4268 and Carol Ann Sloat 519-757-0536

Special Education Plan
July 20~~21~~²⁰

~~Carol Ann Sloat 519-757-0536~~

~~Alternates Susan Gibson 519-771-9622 and Christina Speers 519-532-8276~~

Staff:

Liana Thompson, Superintendent of Education 519-756-6306, ext. 281122

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 and Program Supports Lead - Special Education 519-756-6306, ext. 287219
 Lesley Boudreault, Program Coordinator – Special Education 519-756-6306, ext. 287217
 Piyali Bagchee – Mental Health and Wellness Lead 519-756-6306, ext. 287226
 Lindsay Sheppard - Applied Behaviour Analysis Coordinator 519-756-6306, ext. 287227

What is SEAC?

- SEAC is an advisory committee mandated through the Education Act as a standing committee of each school board and governed by O. Reg. 464/97: Special Education Advisory Committees
- 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) parents and other community representatives;
 - b) representatives of up to 12 local chapters of associations which further the interests of people with exceptional needs;
 - c) at least one person representing the interests of Native Students; and
 - d) board personnel who act as a resource to the committee

How are SEAC Members selected?

- The term of members of the committee shall be the same as the term of the Board of Trustees
- In September of an election year, the Superintendent of Education with responsibility for Special Education shall commence a recruitment process for a new roster of SEAC members.
- Current members in good standing will be asked to confirm their commitment to SEAC.
- If a full complement is not achieved from current members, the Communications department will place ads on the board's website and in selected media inviting interested persons to submit a letter of intention to the SEAC Chair.
- All current SEAC members will be involved in this process and the Committee will submit a proposed roster to the board of Trustees for approval by the November Board meeting

What does SEAC do?

- A special education advisory committee of a board may make recommendations to the board in respect of any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the board.

When does SEAC meet?

- SEAC meetings are held on a monthly basis, with a minimum of ten meetings per school year.
- The meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. either virtually through an electronic meeting application or at the Education Centre, 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, and are open to the public.

<u>Thursday, September 17, 2020</u>	<u>Tuesday, October 15, 2019</u>
<u>Thursday, October 15, 2020</u>	<u>Thursday, November 14, 2019</u>
<u>Thursday, November 19, 2020</u>	<u>Thursday, December 12, 2019</u>
<u>Thursday, December 17, 2020</u>	<u>Thursday, January 16, 2020</u>
<u>Thursday, January 21, 2021</u>	<u>Thursday, February 20, 2020</u>
<u>September 19, 2019</u>	<u>Thursday, February 18, 2021</u>

Special Education Plan
 July 2021~~20~~

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Thursday, June 17, 2021 ~~Thursday, March 26, 2020~~
~~Delayed COVID-19~~

~~Thursday, April 16, 2020 Delayed COVID-19~~

~~Thursday, May 14, 2020 included (virtual) Mtg #1
 for Mar 26, 2020 and Mtg #2 for Apr 16, 2020~~

~~Thursday, June 18, 2020 included Mtg #1 for May
 14, 2020 and Mtg #2 for June 18, 2020.~~

How SEAC Fulfilled its Role and Responsibilities:

Public Consultation

The Grand Erie District School Board values collaboration with families and community members.

What was done –

- A banner was placed on the Grand Erie DSB main webpage reminding the public to provide input through the survey which is linked to the Special Education Plan.
- School Administrators were asked to ensure parents are aware of the survey and encouraged to participate.

Making Recommendations to the Board

With respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students within the board:

What was done –

- Members received presentation on programs and services resulting in discussions.
- Members received presentation on special education budgets and invitation to present suggestions for increases or reductions on certain line items.

Participating in the Board's Annual Review of the Special Education Plan:

What was done –

Consultation with the Special Education Advisory Committee

To meet the requirements of Regulation 464/97, the Grand Erie District School Board has ensured that its Special Education Advisory Committee has participated in the Board's Annual Review of its Special Education Plan guided by Regulation 306 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario (1990). Involvement has included:

- ~~ongoing discussion at SEAC meetings throughout the 2019-20 school year;~~
- ~~opportunity for input through an online survey link on the Grand Erie District School Board website;~~
- ~~invitation to attend Board's budget meeting dealing with special education budgets;~~
- ~~opportunity to meet with the Board's Manager of Business Services, to ask questions and receive clarification regarding Special Education budgets;~~ ongoing discussion at SEAC meetings throughout the 2020-21 school year;
- presentations on programs and services provided for students with special needs;
- opportunity for input through an online survey link on the Grand Erie District School Board website;

~~September 19, 2019 Reviewed Standard 9—Special Education Placements Provided by the Board~~

~~November 14, 2019 Reviewed Standard 11—Provincial and Demonstration Schools in Ontario~~

~~December 12, 2019 Consultation—Self-Contained Programs in Grand Erie 2020-21~~

~~January 16, 2020 Special Education Plan Standard 5—The IPRC Process and Appeals~~

~~February 20, 2020 Special Education Plan Standard 4—Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies~~

~~May 14, 2020—Members received the final draft of the 2019-20 Special Education Plan and carried a motion to recommend the Board of Trustees approve the plan as presented.~~

September 18, 2020

- [Summer School Transition Program - Presentation](#)
- [SEA Summer Camps - Presentation](#)
- [Summer Support for Vulnerable Students and Families - Presentation](#)
- [Special Education and Grand Erie's Virtual Academy - Presentation](#)
- [Consultation – SO31 Accessibility - Review](#)
- [Learner Intervention Tracking for Excellence \(LITE\) – Presentation](#)

[October 15, 2020](#)

- [Rick Hansen Foundation – School Partnership Initiative – Presentation](#)
- [Annual Update – Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017-22 – Presentation](#)
- [Standard 14 – Equipment – Review](#)

[November 19, 2020](#)

- [Standard 4 – Early Identification Procedures and Interventions Strategies - Review](#)
- [C-CAT Data 2019-20 – Presentation](#)
- [2019-20 Grand Erie's Student Achievement Plan: Success for Every Student – Outcomes Report for Students with Special Education Needs – Presentation](#)
- [2020-21 Grand Erie's Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being: Success for Every Student – Presentation](#)

[December 17, 2020](#)

- [Suspension, Expulsion, Exclusion Report for Students with Special Education Needs 2019-20 – Presentation](#)
- [Shanker and Hopkins Self-Regulation Professional Development – Presentation](#)
- [SEAC Orientation Guide – Review](#)
- [October 31, 2020 OnSIS Data for Students with Special Education Needs – Presentation](#)
- [Special Education Self-Contained Planning 2021-2022 – Presentation](#)

[January 21, 2021](#)

- [2021-21 Special Education Budget Process – Presentation](#)
- [Standard 10 – Individual Education Plans including Appendix G – IEP - Review](#)
- [Accessibility Awareness Month Update – Presentation](#)
- [Update with Respect to Special Education During Further School Closures – Presentation](#)

[February 18, 2021](#)

- [Grand Erie's Virtual Academy – SEAC Input - Review](#)
- [Standard 2 – The Board's General Model for Special Education – Review](#)

[March 11, 2021](#)

- [C-CAT Administration 2020-21 – Presentation](#)
- [EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment and OSSLT Assistive Technology Limitations – Presentation](#)
- [Bylaw 8 – Committees of the Board, Draft SEAC Terms of Reference - Review](#)
- [Educational Assistant \(EA\) Allocation Process – Presentation](#)
- [Right to Read Inquiry - Presentation](#)

[April 22, 2021](#)

- [A Day in the Life of the Child and Youth Worker – Presentation](#)

Special Education Plan
July 2021~~20~~

- Summer School Programming for Students with Special Education Needs – Presentation
- Draft Grand Erie's Special Education Plan – 2020-21 - Review
- EA Allocation 2021-22 – Draft Board Report – Presentation
- Summer School Programming for Students with Special Education Needs – Presentation
- Draft Grand Erie's Special Education Plan – 2020-21 - Review
- EA Allocation 2021-22 – Draft Board Report – Presentation

May 20, 2021

Members received the final draft of the 2020-21 Special Education Plan and carried a motion to recommend the Board of Trustees approve the plan as presented.

Participating in the Development of the Board's Annual Budget for Special Education:

What was done -

February 18, 2021

- Budget Definitions and Input into the 2021-22 Budget Process - Review

March 11, 2021

- Budget – SEAC Input Activity – Case Study

~~January 16, 2020 – The Superintendent of Business presented a Financial Update for the 2019-20 Special Education Funding, Grants, Expenditures and Reserves and explained the 2020-21 Budget Process.~~

Reviewing the Financial Statements of the Board as they Relate to Special Education:

What was done –

September 18, 2020

- Special Education Funding for COVID-19 Supports - Presentation

January 21, 2021

- Financial Update Special Education Grants, Expenditures & Reserves 2020-21 – Presentation
- 2021-21 Special Education Budget Process – Presentation

June 17, 2021

Members reviewed the draft Special Education budget proposal.

Grand Erie Financial Statements are available on our website.

https://www.granderie.ca/application/files/6515/7408/9582/Final_Financials_2019_GEDSB.pdf

~~June 18, 2020 members reviewed the draft Special Education budget proposal.~~

~~Grand Erie Financial Statements are available on our website.~~

~~https://www.granderie.ca/application/files/6515/7408/9582/Final_Financials_2019_GEDSB.pdf~~

Contacting SEAC for Membership or to Express a View:

Parents, community members, or members of local associations wishing representation on SEAC or wishing to express their views on a special education topic should contact Wendy Rose, the SEAC Chair at ~~tom.waldschmidt@brant.ca~~ dee.rose@me.com

Questions Related to Special Education Services or Programs:

Principal Leader of Special Education (Services) 519-756-6306, ext. 287214

OR

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

SEAC Terms of Reference:

Terms of Reference for SEAC were approved by the Board in January 2018 and are contained in pages 4-7 of [ByLaw 8 Committees of the Board](#).

Standard 18: CO-ORDINATION OF SERVICES WITH OTHER MINISTRIES OR AGENCIES

The purpose of the standard is to provide the ministry and the public with details of the board's strategies to ensure a smooth transition for students with special needs who are entering or leaving a school.

Transition Planning Process

The process for advance planning for students with special needs who are arriving from other programs is outlined as follows:

- i) For students entering school for the first time, intake meetings are scheduled in the Spring for students entering Grand Erie in September of that year. For students entering school at any other time during the school year, the outside agency contacts the Program Coordinator of Special Education or Teacher Consultant-Special Education to arrange a meeting. The content of the meetings provides a brief overview of students entering Grand Erie. From the information obtained in the meetings, the Teacher Consultants-Special Education are able to determine placements within the Board which will meet the child's needs.
- ii) Individual case conferences are held at the home school for students with high needs. The parent/guardians, agency staff, and the school staff are present. Teacher Consultants Special Education, Community agency staff, etc. may also be invited to attend. Specific information such as school placements, equipment needs, and any other relevant information is discussed.
- iii) For students with fewer special needs, individual case conferences will be scheduled at the request of the parent/guardians or agency. These will also be held at the school. School administrators, LRT's Special Education and classroom teachers will participate in the meeting.
- iv) The process for students with special needs who are arriving from a care, treatment, correctional or other board programs is as follows:
 - Care and Treatment Facility staff contacts school who notifies Teacher Consultant-Special Education.
 - Obtain signed parent/guardian consent for exchange of information.
 - A case conference will be initiated by Grand Erie staff or a referral agency. It may include the following board personnel: Teacher Consultant-Special Education, School Administrator and Special Education staff or classroom teacher and other appropriate system personnel. Parent/guardians and agency personnel may also be in attendance. Information which is relevant to the student's successful transition to school will be discussed including supports required, Special Education Amount, Special Education Amount (SEA) claims, the Individual Education Plan (IEP), medical or health/safety issues and other relevant information. A transition plan will be developed by system personnel. Minutes of the case conference will be taken and forwarded to the parent/guardians and a representative from the agency or board.
 - Further case conferences may be required to monitor the student's transition to school.

Sharing of information to support the transition from Pre-School Speech and Language Services (PSL) to School Speech and Language Services (SLS) for students entering their Senior Kindergarten year in September, involves meetings between Speech-Language Pathologists in May/June of the Junior Kindergarten year after the informed consent of the parent/guardian has been obtained. PSL providers provide a written copy of the most recent assessment report along with recommendations to school principals in the fall, so that discussions and referrals can be made at the Resource Team. Service cut off dates for Junior Kindergarten aged students are different for the Brant County Speech and Language Program than they are for the Haldimand-Norfolk Speech and Language Program. This information is received by Grand Erie and shared in a variety of ways with parents and school staff.

The Board has developed an “Early School Transition for Students with Special Needs” document for students with developmental disabilities, autism/PDD and other exceptionalities to facilitate a smooth transition into school. The Special Education Program Support Team has also developed a “Transitions Guide for School Teams” document that can support staff to facilitate smooth transitions for a variety of situations where students may be moving from one setting to another. Grand Erie participates in parent information sessions called “Parents as Partners” with Lansdowne, Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H., and the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board to assist with school entry for students with special education needs.

Grand Erie also works closely with various community agencies (e.g. Contact Brant, Contact Haldimand-Norfolk, Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H., St. Leonard’s, Woodview), regarding students transitioning to or from schools.

Protocols have been developed with the following outside agencies to clarify roles and responsibilities:

- Child Welfare Agencies Autism Support Services
- Hamilton-Niagara Regional Autism Intervention Program
- Six Nations Tragic Events Response Team
- Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol
- Police and School Board Protocol
- Partnering Together for Healthy Schools Protocol

The Board’s Procedure addressing partnership development (SO108: “Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together”) continues to be implemented with community partners annually.

Outside Assessment Reports

Reports prepared by other professionals outside the Board are reviewed to determine what information provided helps delineate a student’s learning needs, strengths or problems and how it can be used for the improvement of instruction within a school context and in accordance with the *Education Act*, (R.S.O. 1990, S.226(2)). Where this information differs from data collected at the school, discussions at the Resource Team determine how best to proceed. There is no requirement that assessments or reassessments must be conducted by Board personnel (i.e. reports are “transportable”). Allocation of educational resources and educational programming decisions remain the responsibility of school/system staff.

Transitions to Out of Board Programs

When students leave this system to attend programs offered by other school boards or programs in care, treatment and correctional facilities, information is shared in the following ways, with *written and informed parental/guardian consent*:

- the Teacher Consultant-Special Education, School Administrator, LRT or special class teacher will contact the School Board or agency to establish a contact person from within our Board. A copy of the signed parental consent form giving staff permission to share information will be forwarded to the facility;
- the contact person will communicate with the School Board or agency to confirm information that may be required, the dates and personnel required to attend case conferences, etc.;

Staff Supporting Transitions

Board personnel ensuring the successful admission or transfer of students from one program to another may be one or a combination of the following:

- Teacher Consultant-Special Education
- School Administrator
- regular classroom teacher
- Learning Resource Teacher (LRT)
- special class teacher
- other board support personnel such as Social Workers, Child and Youth Workers, Behaviour Counsellors, Board Certified Behaviour Analysts, Speech-Language Pathologists, Psychological Associates/Psycho-Educational Consultants and Lead Educational Assistant

Successful transition will also require parent/guardian commitment, collaboration and support

If the student is transferring to a program outside our Board, successful transition may require some involvement from the individuals as noted above. However, the agency or board where the student will be in attendance will need to implement a transition plan based on the information supplied by Board personnel.

Community Partnership Planning

Grand Erie staff represents the board at several community planning committees and initiatives including: Children's Services Committee (Brant); Child and Youth Planning Network (Brant and Haldimand-Norfolk); Joint Protocol for Student Achievement; Brant Suicide Prevention Committee; Suicide Prevention Network of Haldimand-Norfolk, and Case Resolution, which bring together agencies, ministries and school boards to consider common interests.

Grand Erie continues to implement SO108 Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together. This allows for a better understanding of community services, facilitates communication and collaboration between community agencies and the school board, and increases access to mental health services with a school setting. Partnerships continue to be reviewed annually with the community partner.

Standard 19 - SUBMISSION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN

Each board is required to make its special education plan available to the public at the same time it submits the plan to the ministry. The board must inform the public in a variety of ways how to access the plan.

Two copies of the special education plan approved by the school board, and any amendments must be forwarded to the local district office of the Ministry of Education. The complete plan must be submitted along with the following documents:

- A letter from the director of the school board that confirms that the school board's special education plan is being submitted in compliance with the requirements of Regulation 306 and of the Standard's for School Boards' Special Education Plans;
- ~~A~~a copy of the board's motion approval of the plan, including the date of the approval; ~~and~~
- ~~A~~a copy of any related motions or recommendations from SEAC

~~On At the May 14 (for April 16), 2020~~April 22, 2021 meeting the Special Education Advisory Committee received the first draft version of the Special Education Plan.

~~On May 14, 2020~~May 20April 22, 2021 the Special Education Advisory Committee passed the following motions:

"THAT SEAC recommends the Board approve the Special Education Plan ~~1~~for submission to the Ministry and uploading to the Board's website."

~~On June 22, 2020~~May 20, 2021 the Grand Erie District School Board passed the following motion:

"THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Annual Review of the Special Education Plan, and the submission of two copies of the plan and the Special Education Report Components Checklist to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Education by July 31, ~~2020~~2021."

In accordance with the Ministry of Education "Special Education Plans and Reporting Requirements on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services", the ~~2019-20~~2020-21— Special Education checklist will be signed by Ms. ~~B. Blancher~~J. Roberto, Director of Education and Secretary of the Grand Erie District School Board and will be submitted to the London Regional Office of the Ministry of Education with two copies of the ~~2019-20~~2020-21 Special Education Plan. The checklist confirms that the School Board's Special Education Plan has been updated and posted to the Board's website. The posted Plan continues to be compliant with the requirements of Regulation 306 and the policy document Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans.

The Board's Annual Review of the Special Education Plan will be available to the public at the same time the checklist is submitted to the Ministry.

The public will be informed through Board minutes, School Principals, School Councils, SEAC members and the website on how to access the Plan.

Special Education Plan
July ~~2021~~2020

The Plan will be available through the Board's website:
<http://www.granderie.ca/board/elementary/special-education>

A copy of any related motions or recommendations from the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee will also be submitted.

~~At its September 19, 2019 meeting, SEAC members were advised that changes in the delivery of special education services required updates to certain standards in the plan to provide a more accurate presentation of special education services to parents.~~

The following recommendations from SEAC were made to the board during the ~~2020-21~~2019-20 school year.

~~September 19, 2019—~~

~~Grand Erie DSB SEAC made the following recommendation:~~

~~Moved by: T. Waldschmidt~~

~~Seconded by: K. Jones~~

~~"THAT the Board approve the amended plan, resubmit it to the Ministry of Education and update the website edition."~~

~~Carried~~

~~The following motion was approved by the board for the 2018-19 Special Education Plan.~~

~~October 28, 2019—~~

~~Grand Erie DSB Trustees made the following motion:~~

~~Moved by: G. Anderson~~

~~Seconded by: B. Doyle~~

~~"THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Special Education Plan 2018-19 as amended and resubmit it to the Ministry of Education as amended."~~

~~Carried~~

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Grand Erie’s Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being:

Success for Every Student 2020-21

Multi-Year Plan Goals

D-1 (b)

- Increase staff understanding of effective instruction and assessment in literacy and numeracy
- Increase student understanding of effective learning strategies and how to use them
- Create and promote an enabling environment where all students can participate fully in their education.

Theory of Change

If students’ most urgent learning needs are identified and responsive strategies are implemented, then students will demonstrate improvement with their achievement.

Where Are We Now?

Needs Assessment Findings

Our focus will be to recognize overarching conceptual understandings across the strands to deepen our knowledge of spatial, proportional, and algebraic reasoning. Social emotional learning skills continue to need to be developed to help students develop confidence, cope with challenges and think critically. Students need to see themselves as capable and confident learners of mathematics.

Feedback from educators about their learning needs shows that professional learning at the system and school level should give educators the knowledge and skills to assess individual student needs and provide responsive, differentiated mathematics instruction. This provides opportunities for all students to understand mathematical concepts and processes that lay the foundation for problem-solving. Further findings indicate Grand Erie staff continue to seek to learn and acquire strategies to promote and support student mental health, productive disposition and well-being, while maintaining high expectations for mathematics achievement in the classroom.

Individual student learning gaps will continue to be identified and addressed with a continued focus on differentiated instruction and assessment in literacy. This focus enables students to develop explicit and implicit meaning in their reading and writing skills that are necessary to be successful in working towards the completion of the literacy credential required for graduation.

Feedback from educators about their learning needs shows that professional learning at the system and school level should give educators the skills to assess individual student needs and provide responsive differentiated literacy instruction.

How Did We Do?

K-12

Percentage of Grade 3 & 6 students achieving level 3 or 4 in Reading, Writing and Oral Language on report cards.

Percentage of Grade 3 & 6 students achieving level 3 or 4 in **Mathematics** on report cards.

Percentage of Grade 7 & 8 students achieving level 3 or 4 in **Mathematics** on report cards.

Percentage of students in Grade 10 Applied English achieving the Literacy Graduation Requirement on the Grade 10 OSSLT.

Percentage of students achieving 6/8 and 8/8 credits by the end of Grade 9.

Percentage of students achieving 12/16 and 16/16 credits by the end of Grade 10.

Monitor and measure the impact of the continued focus on tiered supports and strategies.

Monitor and measure the impact of the implementation of evidence-based Social-Emotional Learning programs on student well-being and achievement.

Narrative Data

School Effectiveness Framework Components & Indicators: 4.1 - A culture of high expectations supports the belief that all students can learn, progress and achieve.

1.1 - Assessment is connected to the curriculum, collaboratively developed by educators and used to inform next steps in learning and instruction.

How Will We Get There?

Professional, and Collaborative Learning – Superintendents and Central Teams will support/guide Principals and their multi-disciplinary teams through learning about and implementation of curriculum; supports, tools and resources to use effective differentiated instruction; ongoing assessment and reflection on student responses to instruction and feedback.

Mathematics Support for Ministry Identified Schools—The Principal Leaders, K-12 Board Math Lead; Board Math Facilitators; Elementary Consultants; and Secondary Math Facilitator will support **elementary educators** and **Grade 9** Applied Teachers with their learning and implementation.

Principal and school multi-disciplinary learn teams will implement and, access additional resources to build instructional capacity. Principals and teachers will implement effective differentiated classroom instruction and assessment to meet individual student learning.

Wrap-around Support Staff will work directly with educators and students to build capacity in mental health literacy and social-emotional well-being.

Individual student needs: In maintaining and striving for high expectations in achievement and well-being for all learners, wrap around supports are provided to decrease barriers, in response to student needs.

How Will We Know?

The focus is on improved mathematics achievement. All of the following practices are expected to be evident for school based literacy achievement.

Educators implement effective differentiated instructional and assessment practices in a tiered response to individual student needs, supported by the leadership of the Principal.

Schools will be supported by system and principal leadership so that educators will effectively differentiate and accommodate instruction and assessment to meet needs identified in student profiles.

Staff members will develop skills in mental health literacy and an awareness of their own mental health.

Students know when to access and use calming strategies for their own emotional well-being.

How Are We Doing?

System

Family of Schools Superintendent and System Multi-Disciplinary Teams Learning Observations; Conversations.

Schools

Principal observations and reflections of instructional practice solicited throughout the implementation of strategies and the impact at the student level.

Evidence of teacher knowledge/skills/confidence/support for implementation in a variety of forms (reflections, observations, responsive actions, portfolios, professional dialogue and teacher surveys).

Principal and teacher dialogue and feedforward regarding taking initiative for implementation of their own professional learning goals and growth.

Evidence of continued implementation of Tier 1 interventions and classroom-based strategies before accessing outside supports.

Classroom

Triangulated student evidence in a variety of forms (observation, conversation, and products).

Students demonstrate social emotional learning skills that lead them to see themselves as capable and confident learners that cope with challenges and think creatively

Evidence of implementation of Tier 1 strategies to support Universal Design for Learning and the full participation of all students.

The Pre-Referral Process

The Classroom ~~Educator~~Teacher Notices a Concern

- Observations
- Ontario Student Record Data
- Checklists
- Assessments
- Input from previous teachers, other educators, including LRT
- Parent Information and Input
- Check re vision and hearing, other medical

Referral to Student Support Services

Once the RT has determined that all of the recommended in-school strategies and approaches have been exhausted, and the concern still remains,

the RT may recommend a referral to Student Support Services Personnel, with parent/guardian consent ~~and approval~~.

Referrals to access **Grand Erie EDSB Student Support Services** through LITE require consultation with and approval by the Teacher

Classroom ~~Educator~~Teacher implements accommodations, and utilizes differentiated instruction and assessmental strategies to promote learning. ~~Educator~~Teacher evaluates effectiveness of Tier 1 strategies. New strategies are implemented and evaluated. Action plans are documented in the **Student Profile (LITE)**. If concerns continue, the teacher seeks assistance from the **School Team (ST)**. Parent is informed and consulted and consents. ~~Parent may also be invited to attend the ST meeting.~~

Resource Team (RT) reviews relevant data, provides input on efficacy of current strategies, and recommends differentiation, Tier 2 or 3 interventions and/or instructional strategies. **Out-of-Board** supports may be recommended to parents, (i.e. medical follow-up, community agency involvement). Parent is consulted and consents ~~informed and consulted~~. The RT may also recommend that an **Individual Education Plan** be developed.

School Team (ST) – includes Principal, LRT, Classroom ~~Educator~~Teacher(s), CYW

- Sharing of concerns, data and observations
- Strategizing / problem-solving
- Further Tier 1 Intervention suggestions and planning
- Individualized assessments (i.e. AAB)
- Consultation with System LRT/Lead EA

Resource Team (RT) – includes Principal, LRT, Teacher Consultant-Special Education, Classroom Educator if required, and Grand Erie EDSB Multi-Disciplinary System Support Staff Student Support Services Personnel (as appropriate)

- Behaviour Counsellor
- Psychological Consultant
- Social Worker
- S-EL Pathologist

School Team (ST) provides more detailed assessment information and recommends individualized in-school interventions. A case conference with parents and other relevant staff is held if necessary. A **Student Profile (LITE)** is initiated to track and document strategies. **ST** may seek further information from the

Resource Team (RT), when the **ST** believes that all accommodations and in-school support have been exhausted and wishes to discuss additional Tier 1 strategies and options for Tier 2 or 3 supports.

D-1 (b)

Parent is ~~informed and~~ consulted and consents throughout.



July 2021

Grand Erie District School Board
349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3

Last Name, First Name
D-1 (b)

Appendix C

STUDENT PROFILE SUPPORT FORM - 28-Sep-2017

Name	Last Name, First Name	OEN	000000000	Board Id #	000000000	Grade	8
School	School Name	Family	Teacher Consultant	DOB	dd-mmm-yyyy	Gender	F

Exceptional StudentYes ☐ No ☒**Teacher**

Miss Teacher

Credits Accumulated

Sources Of Information		Reason For Student Profile	
(Select a date when a source has been reviewed or a new assessment completed)		Student has struggled to meet grade level expectations throughout her school career and has a non-identified accommodated IEP. Strategies need to be implemented as she makes the transition to secondary school.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation with Parents	Date 26-Sep-2017	Referral for <input type="radio"/> School Team <input checked="" type="radio"/> Resource Team Date 05-Oct-2017	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation with previous Teachers	Date 27-Sep-2017		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report Card Printout (attached)	Date 27-Sep-2017		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of OSR	Date 19-Sep-2017		

Strengths

- Oral communication skills
- Computer skills
- Kinesthetic learner

Needs

- Attempt new learning/opportunities
- Attention concentration skills
- Independent work habits
- Reading - Comprehension
- Express needs effectively
- Self-advocacy skills

Instructional Accommodations

- access to computer
- more frequent breaks
- organizational coaching
- cueing/prompting

Environmental Accommodations

- oral reporting
- minimize distractions
- alternative work space
- proximity to instructor

Assessment Accommodations

- access to computer for written work
- alternate to written tests and exams
- ask student to only write main points then expand verbally
- chunk time of assessment
- extra time to respond
- more frequent breaks

Educational Assessments

Type	Date	Summary of Results
AAB - Academic Achievement Battery	20-Apr-2016	All subtests scored in the Average range, except Reading Comprehension, which was Low Average.

Clinical Assessments

Type	Date	Summary of Results
Medical Report	17-Feb-2012	She has a diagnosis of ADHD.

Program Goals

- To develop self-advocacy skills so that she will request assistance as needed.
- To develop the self-confidence to take risks in new learning opportunities.
- To develop independent work habits and task completion skills.

Student Details

- Outside Agency Involvement (list/indicate Agency below)
- IEP with Accommodations
- System Supports in Place (i.e. Social Work, Behaviour Counsellor)

At Risk/In Risk Characteristics

- Low academic performance (level 1 or lower) in Language

Personal, Organizational, and Social Strengths

- Cooperation
- Technology Skills

Learning Style

- Kinesthetic Learner
- Sequential Learner

Challenges

- Lack of self confidence



Grand Erie District School Board
349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3

-Arrives unprepared for class

Pathway Recommendation

-Applied/College Program

Secondary Accommodations Recommended

-Peer Mentor
-Learning Strategies Course

Additional Information

Has support from Woodview counsellor, Ms. Counsellor.

Sample



Grand Erie District School Board
349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3

Last Name, First Name
D-1 (b)

STUDENT PROFILE SUPPORT FORM - 28-Sep-2017 (Continued)

Name	Last Name, First Name	OEN	000000000	Board Id #	000000000	Grade	3
School	School Name	Family	Teacher Consultant	DOB	dd-mmm-yyyy	Gender	FEMALE

Student Profile Activity Log

Date	Summary of Meeting Minutes/Strategies/Effectiveness/Next Steps	Type of Meeting (IST, RT, Case Conference, Parent/Teacher etc.) Attendees
14-Sep-2017	Referral to CYW to work on self-advocacy strategies and to develop confidence to take risks and attempt new learning opportunities. This will be important as she transitions to secondary school next year.	RT

Sample



Elementary Program

Kindergarten Home Connection Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please complete the following form to help us get to know your Kindergarten child. Please return this form by the {second week of school – insert date}.

CHILD'S NAME

_____ Surname	_____ First Name	_____ Name Used
------------------	---------------------	--------------------

1. My child's strongest skills and best qualities are:

2. Is there anything about your child's preschool development (sitting, creeping, walking, talking) that you think we should know?

3. Does your child have allergies, sensitivities or food intolerances? Please elaborate.

4. Do you have any concerns about your child's vision / hearing / speech? Please elaborate.

5. What previous group experiences has your child had (e.g., YM-YWCA Program, Daycare, Library Story Hour, Early **ON** ~~On~~ Centres, recreational activities, etc.)

6. What types of activities does your child enjoy most? (e.g., building, listening to stories/looking at books, games, toys, imaginative play, indoor/outdoor play.)

7. Are there traditions that are important to ***your*** family?

8. Is there anything else we need to know about your child to make their entry into school more successful? (e.g., first child in kindergarten, siblings, name of before/after school care provider, etc.)

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

I consent to the use of the personal information by all school board employees, contained herein, on a need to know basis, and who may be involved in my child's educational program.

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date

If the I.P.R.C. has identified your child as an exceptional pupil and you have agreed with the I.P.R.C. identification and placement decision, the Board will promptly notify the principal of the school at which the special education program is to be provided of the need to develop an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) for your child.

What about reviewing the I.P.R.C.?

A review meeting will be held within one year unless the parent notifies the principal in writing that they wish to waive the annual review. The parent may request a review meeting at any time after a placement has been in effect for three months but the request may not be made more often than once in every three month period.

This review will consider the same types of information that were originally considered. With your written permission (request for review), the I.P.R.C. conducting the review will consider the progress your child has made in relation to the I.E.P. The I.P.R.C. will review the placement and identification decisions and decide whether they should continue or whether a different decision should now be made.

What can parents do if they disagree with the I.P.R.C. decision?

If you do not agree with either the identification or placement decision made by the I.P.R.C., you may

- within 15 days of receipt of the decision, request that the I.P.R.C. hold a second meeting to discuss your concerns; or
- within 30 days of receipt of the decision, file a notice of appeal with the Grand Erie District School Board.

If you do not agree with the decision after the second meeting, you may file a notice of appeal within 15 days of your receipt of the decision. If you do not consent to the I.P.R.C. decision and you do not appeal it, the Board will instruct the principal to implement the I.P.R.C. decision.

How do I appeal an IPRC decision?

If you disagree with the I.P.R.C.'s identification of your child as exceptional or with the placement decision of the I.P.R.C., you may, within 30 days of receipt of the original decision or within 15 days of receipt of the decision from the second meeting described above, give written notification of your intention to appeal the decision to the Grand Erie District School Board.

The notice of appeal must indicate the decision with which you disagree and include a statement that sets out your reasons for disagreeing.

What organizations are available to assist parents?

- [Association for Bright Children of Ontario](#)
- [Association for Community Living](#)
- [Autism Society of Ontario](#)
- [Canadian Hearing Services](#)
- [Down Syndrome Association of Ontario](#)
- [Tourette Syndrome Association of Canada](#)

Where can parents obtain additional information?

- the school principal
- [the Grand Erie District School Board](#)

Superintendent of Special Education Services
(519) 756-6301

PARENTS' GUIDE TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Identification, Placement and Review Committee



**GRAND ERIE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Exceptional Pupils and Special Programs

Who is an exceptional pupil?

The Education Act defines an exceptional pupil as “a pupil whose behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that he or she is considered to need placement in a special education program”.

Who decides that a pupil is exceptional?

The identification is made by a Board-appointed Identification, Placement and Review Committee. For ease of reference this Committee is known as an I.P.R.C. They will

- identify if your child is an “exceptional pupil” based on the above categories;
- determine the placement or setting in which your child’s special education program will be delivered;
- review that placement at least once a year.

What is a special education program?

A special education program is a program that

- is based on and modified by the results of continuous assessment and evaluation;
- includes an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) containing specific objectives and an outline of educational services that meet the needs of the exceptional pupil.

What placements are offered?

Special education programs are designed for the individual and will be carried out in the regular classroom setting with special services brought to the child. At times, the student may be withdrawn for part of the day. A small percentage of exceptional pupils may require specialized class settings on a full or part-time basis.

How is an IPRC requested?

The principal of your child’s school

- must request an I.P.R.C. meeting for your child upon receiving your written request;
- may, with written notice to you, refer your child to an I.P.R.C. when the principal and the child’s teacher(s) believe that your child may benefit from a special education program.

Within 15 days of receiving your request, or giving you notice, the principal must provide you with a copy of this guide and a written statement of approximately when the I.P.R.C. will meet.

May parents attend the IPRC meeting?

Regulation 181/98 entitles parents and pupils, 16 years of age or older, to be present at and participate in all Committee discussions about your child, and to be present when the Committee’s identification and placement decisions are made.

Who else may attend an IPRC meeting?

- the principal of your child’s school;
- other resource people such as your child’s teacher, special education staff, board support staff or the representative of an agency who may provide further information or clarification;
- your representative, that is, a person who may support you or speak on behalf of you or your child;
- an interpreter, if one is required.

What information will parents receive about the IPRC meeting?

At least 10 days prior to the meeting, the Chair of the I.P.R.C. will provide you with written notification of the date, time and place of the meeting and an invitation to attend. You are an important partner in considering your child’s placement. This letter will also ask you to indicate whether or not you will attend.

Before the I.P.R.C. meeting occurs, you will receive a written copy of any information about your child that the Chair of the I.P.R.C. has received. This may include the results of assessments or a summary of information.

What happens at an I.P.R.C. meeting?

The Chair introduces everyone and explains the purpose of the meeting. The Committee will review all available information about your child and may discuss any proposal that has been made about a special education program or special education services for the child.

You are encouraged to ask questions and join in the discussion. Following the discussion, after all the information has been presented and considered, the Committee will make its decisions.

What will the I.P.R.C.’s written statement of decision include?

- whether the I.P.R.C. has identified your child as “exceptional”;
- the categories and definitions of any exceptionalities identified;
- a description of your child’s strengths and needs;
- the I.P.R.C. placement decision;
- the I.P.R.C.’s recommendations, if any, regarding a special education program and special education services
- the reasons for the decision that the pupil should be placed in a special education class, if applicable.

What happens after the I.P.R.C. has made its decision?

If you agree with the I.P.R.C. decision, you will be asked to indicate, by signing your name, that you agree with the identification and placement decisions.

Ministry of Education Provincial and Demonstration Schools

The ministry operates provincial and demonstration schools throughout Ontario for deaf, blind, deaf-blind, and severely learning-disabled students, as well as those with attention deficit hyper-activity disorder (ADHD). Residential programs are offered at the schools Monday to Friday, for students who live too far from school to travel daily.

School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind

[W. Ross Macdonald School](#)

350 Brant Avenue
Brantford, ON N3T 3J9
(519) 759-0730

Schools for the Deaf

[Ernest C. Drury School](#)

255 Ontario Street, South
Milton, ON L9T 2M5
(905) 878-2851
TTY: (905) 878-7195

[Robarts School](#)

1090 Highbury Avenue
London, ON N5Y 4V9
(519) 453-4400 [TTY same]

[Sir James Whitney School](#)

350 Dundas Street, West
Belleville, ON K8P 1B2
(613) 967-2823 [TTY same]

Schools for Students with ADHD and Severe Learning Disabilities

[Amethyst School](#)

1090 Highbury Avenue
London, ON N5Y 4V9
(519) 443-4408

Schools for Students with ADHD and Severe Learning Disabilities (cont'd.)

[Sagonaska School](#)

350 Dundas Street, West
Belleville, ON K8P 1B2
(613) 967-2830

[Trillium School](#)

347 Ontario Street, South
Milton, ON L9T 3X9
(905) 878-8428

[Centre Jules-Leger](#)

281 rue Lanark
Ottawa, ON K1Z 6R8
(613) 761-9300
TTY: (613) 761-9302 and 761-9304

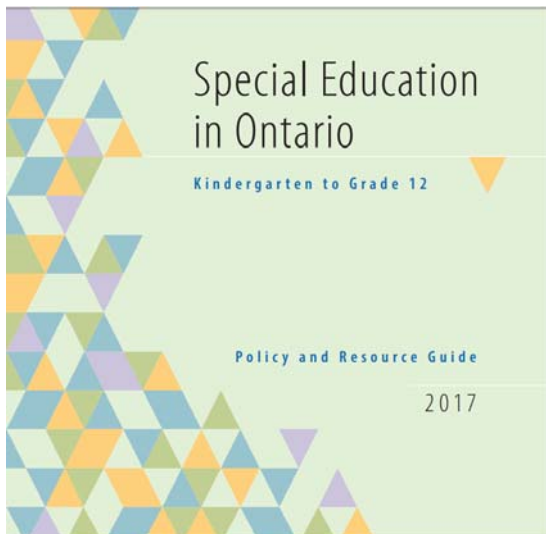
Special Education Programs and Services provided by the Grand Erie District School Board

The Grand Erie District School Board provides a range of placement options for exceptional pupils including regular class placements and special education class placements. Special education classes providing a variety of appropriate programs for exceptional pupils are available.

[Grand Erie District School Board Special Education Plan](#)

Many organizations are available to support you in understanding the I.E.P. and/or to provide additional resources. The principal of your school can provide the names of the organizations that serve your area. This information is also available in the Special Education Advisory Committee's brochure, available at your local school.

Resources for IEPs. Found on the Ministry of Education website.



www.edu.gov.on.ca

Grand Erie District School Board

519-756-6301 Ext 281122
519-754-1606 Ext 287214
519-756-6301 Ext 287217
519-756-6301 Ext 287227

Superintendent of Education— Special Education
Principal-Leader of Special Education
Program Coordinator of Special Education
Applied Behaviour Analysis Coordinator – Special Education

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (I.E.P.)

A Guide for Parents



Why Does a Student Have an IEP?

What is an I.E.P.?

A written plan that:

- Describes the special education programs and services your child needs to be successful.
- Lists your child's strengths and needs affecting his/her learning.
- Records supports and services that help your child learn and demonstrate learning.
- Identifies expectations that are changed (modified) from your child's age-appropriate grade level.
- Identifies alternative expectations in program areas that differ from the Ontario curriculum. (i.e. social skills, personal care etc.)
- Includes a transition plan for all students who have an IEP, whether identified as exceptional by an IPRC or not, for a variety of contexts that may include: entry to school, between grades, movement from elementary to secondary, movement from secondary to post-secondary, etc.

Every student who is identified as exceptional by an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) must have an I.E.P.

Students who are not formally identified as exceptional but who require a special education program and/or services have an I.E.P. when:

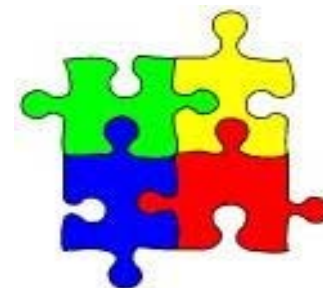
- The School's principal decides that the student will be assessed using modified expectations and/or
- The student regularly needs supports and services (accommodations) for instruction or assessment.

What is my role as a parent?

- Take part in developing the I.E.P. by providing up-to-date information about your child's strengths and needs.
- Practice skills at home that your child is learning at school.
- Share information about skills your child has learned at school and has transferred to home and the community.
- Maintain open communication with your child's school.
- Ask questions.

What can I expect from the school regarding the I.E.P.?

- A copy of the I.E.P. (within 30 school days of the initial IPRC, change of placement or placement in September).
- That the I.E.P. is written in clear, plain language.
- Ongoing participation in the I.E.P. process.
- Being informed of meeting times, and the topics to be discussed at your child's I.E.P. meetings.
- Regular communication from the school regarding your child's progress.
- That the I.E.P., as a working document is reviewed every reporting period.





Growing Excellence....Inspiring Success

Name	DOB
School	Principal
Student OEN	School Year
Grade	SEA Equipment
Last IPRC/Annual Review Date	Placement Start Date
Exceptionality	Date Annual Review Waived

IPRC Placement	Program/Class Type
-----------------------	---------------------------

Reasons for Developing an IEP**IEP Development Team**

Staff Member	Position
---------------------	-----------------

Health Support Services	Sources Consulted in the Development of the IEP
--------------------------------	--

-Parent/Guardian or Student if 16+

Individualized Equipment	SEA Equipment
---------------------------------	----------------------

Educational Assessments		
Type	Date	Summary of Results

Clinical Assessments		
Type	Date	Summary of Results

AREAS OF STRENGTH	AREAS OF NEED
--------------------------	----------------------

**Subject / Courses or Alternative Program**

AC (Accommodated) - changes in teaching, classroom / school environment, assessment methods

MOD (Modified Curriculum) - changes in grade level expectations or changes in number and/or complexity of expectations

ALT (Alternative Program) - areas of learning other than the Ontario Curriculum

Human Resources (Teaching / Non Teaching Support Staff)					
Type	Position	Start Date	Intensity	Frequency	Location
Elementary Program Exemptions / Secondary Compulsory Course Substitutions					
Exemption	Substitution		Reasons		

Provincial Assessments	
Permitted Accommodations (As Part Of Regular Classroom Practice)	Exemptions

Secondary School Goal (For Secondary Students Only)

Student is currently working toward the attainment of a:

Successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course is a requirement of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.



Accommodations

Exceptionality : -No exceptionality specified

Purpose Adapt the program for the student - Reflect what is different from what is normally provided for other students in the class - Do not alter the provincial learning expectations - are assumed to be common to all subjects, courses, skill areas unless otherwise indicated

Instructional Accommodations

Environmental Accommodations

Assessment Accommodations

IEP Completion And Reporting

Date of IEP completion **Reporting Dates**

Reporting Format

This IEP also includes (check if applicable)

☐ **Annual program goals and learning expectations for modified subjects / courses or alternative program.**

☐ **A transition plan**



Transition Plan



Parent/Student Consultation and Staff Review and IEP Updating

Grand Erie District School Board		
List of Acronyms		Department/Program
AAB	Academic Achievement Battery	Special Education
ABA	Applied Behaviour Analysis	Special Education
ABC	Association for Bright Children	Special Education
AC	Attendance Counsellors	Student Support Services
ADD	Attention Deficient Disorder	Special Education
ADE	Average Daily Enrolment	Business Services
ADHD	Attention Deficient Hyperactive Disorder	Special Education
ADP	Auditory Processing Disorder	Special Education
AER	Assessment Evaluation and Reporting	Special Education
AIP	Assessment For Improvement	
ALL	Analysis of Language Learning	Special Education
AODA	Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act	Special Education
AOYAP	Accelerated Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program	Student Success
APA	Additional Professional Assignment	
ARC	Accommodation Review Committee	Business Services
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorders	Special Education
BASP	Before and After School Programs	Elementary Program
BC	Behaviour Counsellors	Student Support Services
BCBA	Board Certified Behaviour Analyst	Special Education
BCP	Business Continuity Plan	Business Services
BIP	Board Improvement Plan	Student Success
BMS	Behaviour Management Systems	Student Support Services
BYOD	Bring Your Own Device	Information Technology
CAPD	Central Auditory Processing Disorder	Student Support Services
CAS	Children's Aid Society (see also FACS)	FOS SO
CASI	Comprehension Attitude Strategies Interests	Student Support Services
CCAC	see LHIN	Special Education
CDA	Communicative Disorders Assistant	Student Support Services
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children	Special Education
CILM	Collaborative Inquiry Learning Model	Student Success
CLA	Contextualized Learning Assignment	Student Success
COI	Certificate of Insurance	Business Services
CPRI	Child Parent Resource Institute	Student Support Services
CSAP	Cumulative Student Assessment Portfolio	Student Success
CUS	Community Use of Schools	Community Use of Schools
CYW	Child and Youth Worker	Student Support Services
D/HH	Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Special Education
DD	Developmental Disabilities	Special Education
DE	Developmental Education	Special Education

Grand Erie District School Board		
List of Acronyms		Department/Program
DI	Differentiated Instruction	Student Support Services
DOB	Date of Birth	Schools
DPA	Daily Physical Activity	Schools
DRA	Diagnostic Reading Assessment	Elementary Program
DSM	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders	Special Education
E&E	Effectiveness and Efficiency Review	Business Services
EA	Education Assistants	Student Support Services
EDI	Early Development Instrument	Elementary Program
EFIS	Education Finance Information System	Business Services
ELD	English Literacy Development	Student Success
ELK	Early Learning Kindergarten	Elementary Program
ELL	English Language Learners	Student Support Services
ELP	Early Learning Program	Elementary Program
EPO	Education Programs Other (Grants)	Business Services
EQAO	Education Quality and Accountability Office	Student Success
ESA	Educational Services Agreement	Business Services
ESL	English as a Second Language	Student Support Services
ETFO	Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario	Human Resources
FACS	Family and Children's Society (see also CAS)	Student Support Services
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	Special Education
FDK	Full Day Kindergarten	Elementary Program
FDL	Full Day Learning	Elementary Program
FNMI	First Nation, Metis, Inuit	Indigenous Education
FOG	aka Nominal, Head Count (actual number of students, not ADE)	Business Services
FOS	Family of Schools	Schools
FRG	Facilities Renewal Grant	Business Services
FSL	French as a Second Language	Elementary/Secondary Programs
FTE	Full Time Equivalent	Business Services
GEAP	Grand Erie's Achievement Plan	Student Success
GEESA	Grand Erie Elementary Sports Association	Schools
GEPIC	Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee	Parent Engagement
GLD	General Learning Disability	Special Education
GPL	Good Places to Learn funding	Business Services
GrEAT	Grand Erie Elementary Administrators Team	Human Resources
GSN	Grants for Student Needs	Business Services
HI	Hearing Impairment	Special Education
HVAC	Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning	Facilities
IBI	Intensive Behaviour Intervention	Special Education
IEP	Individual Education Plan	Special Education

Grand Erie District School Board		
List of Acronyms		Department/Program
IIR Data	Individual Item Report Data	
IPRC	Identification Placement and Review Committee	Student Support Services
ISA	Intensive Support Amount	Special Education
ISC	Intensive Support Class	Special Education
ISRT	In School Resource Team	Special Education
JOHSC	Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee	Health and Safety
JUFA	Joint Use of Facilities Agreement	Business Services
KLLIC	Kindergarten Literacy Language in the Classroom	Elementary Program
LAN	Local Area Network	Information Technology
LANSA	Leadership Alliance Network for Student Assessment	Student Success
LD	Learning Disability	Special Education
LDCC	Locally Developed Compulsory Credit	Student Success
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design	Facilities Services
LHIN	Local Health Integrated Network (previously CCAC)	Student Support Services
LITE	Learner Intervention Tracking for Excellence	Special Education
LLI	Levelled Literacy Intervention	Elementary Program
LNS	Literacy Numeracy Secretariat	Student Success
LRT	Learning Resource Teacher	Student Support Services
LSA	Leading Student Achievement	Student Success
LTSP	Long Term Suspension Program	Student Support Services
MACSE	Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education	Special Education
MAP	Math Alignment Project	Student Success
MFIPPA	Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act	Privacy & Information
MHAN	Mental Health and Addictions Nurses	Student Support Services
MID	Mild Intellectual Disability	Special Education
MOE	Ministry of Education	Board
NAC	Native Advisory Committee	Indigenous Education
NETS-S	National Educational Technology Standards	Information Technology
NS/NL	Native Studies/Native Languages	Indigenous Education
NTIP	New Teacher Induction Program	Human Resources
OAP	Ontario Autism Program	Special Education
OCA	Ontario Comprehension Assessment	Student Support Services
OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	Special Education
OCT	Ontario College of Teachers	Human Resources
OCUP	Ontario Curriculum Unit Planner	
ODA	Ontarians With Disabilities Act	Student Support Services
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder	Special Education
OELC	Ontario E-Learning Consortium	Information Technology
OEN	Ontario Education Number	Schools

Grand Erie District School Board		
List of Acronyms		Department/Program
OERB	Ontario Education Resource Bank	Schools
OESC	Ontario Education Services Corporation	Student Support Services
OEYC	Ontario Early Years Centres	Elementary Program
OFIP	Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership	Elementary Program
OISE	Ontario Institute for Studies in Education	Student Success
OnSIS	Ontario School Information System	Business Services
OPSBA	Ontario Public School Boards Association	Business Services
OSAPAC	Ontario Software Acquisition Program Advisory Committee	Information Technology
OSR	Ontario Student Record	School
OSSD	Ontario Secondary School Diploma	Student Success
OSSLT	Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test	Student Success
OSSTF	Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation	Human Resources
OSTA	Ontario Student Trustees' Association	Executive Services
OT	Occupational Therapist	Student Support Services
OYAP	Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program	Student Success
PASS	Principals Assessment of Schools Survey	Business Services
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorders (see also ASD)	Special Education
PDT	Program Development Team	Elementary Program
PDT	Provincial Discussion Table	Special Education
PIM	Privacy and Information Management	Executive Services
PIPA	Preschool and Primary Inventory of Phonological Awareness Skills	Elementary Program
PLC	Professional Learning Community	Human Resources
PLT	Principal Learn Team	Human Resources
PNC	Professional Network Centre	Human Resources
PSAB	Public Sector Accountability Board	Business Services
PSSP	Professional Student Services Personnel	Special Education
PSYCH	Psychological Consultants	Student Support Services
PT	Physio Therapist	Student Support Services
PTR	Prohibitive to Repair funding	Business Services
PTR	Pupil Teacher Ratio	Business Services
QA	Quality Accommodations	Business Services
RHPA	Registered Health Professionals Act	Human Resources
RMA	Risk Management Advisory	Business Services
RMS	Renewed Math Strategy	Elementary Program
ROKS	Reaching Out to Kids in Schools	Student Support Services
SAD	Student Achievement Division	Student Success
SAL	Supervised Alternative Learning	Student Success
SALT	System Administrative Leadership Training (formerly School ALT)	
SAO	Student Achievement Officer	Student Success

Grand Erie District School Board		
List of Acronyms		Department/Program
SAP	Student Action Plan	Student Success
SAPP	Sexual Abuse Prevention Program	
SC	Special Class	Special Education
SDW	Student Data Warehouse	Student Success
SEA	Special Equipment Amount	Special Education
SEAC	Special Education Advisory Committee	Special Education
SEF	School Effectiveness Framework	Student Success
SEPPA	Special Education Per Pupil Amount	Special Education
SHSM	Specialist High Skills Major	Student Success
SIM	Schools in the Middle	Student Success
SIP	School Improvement Plan	Student Success
SIP	Special Incidence Portion	Special Education
SIT	School Improvement Team	Student Success
SLP	Speech / Language Pathologist	Student Support Services
SRPR	Surveyors' Real Property Report	Business Services
SS	Student Success	Student Success
SSI	Student Support Initiative	Student Success
SST	Student Success Teacher	Student Success
STEP	Student Transition Experience Program	Student Support Services
STRIVE	Socialization, Transition, Reflection, Innovation, Vocation and Education	
SW	Social Workers	Student Support Services
SWAC	School Within a College	Student Success
SWS	Student Work Study	Student Success
TAC	Tangible Capital Assets	Business Services
TC	Teacher Consultants	Special Education
TCPS	Total Capital Planning Solutions	Business Services
TIPS	Targeted Implementation and Planning Supports	
TLCP	Teaching and Learning Critical Pathway	Human Resources
TLX	Teaching Learning Examples	
TPA	Teacher Performance Appraisal	Human Resources
ULC	Underwriters Laboratory of Canada	Health and Safety
VMI	Visual-Motor Integration	Special Education
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol	Information Technology
WAN	Wide Area Network	Information Technology
WHMIS	Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System	Health and Safety



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education & Secretary
FROM: Liana Thompson, Superintendent of Education
RE: **Allocation of Educational Assistants 2021-22**
DATE: May 10, 2021.

Recommended Action: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the allocation of 302 Educational Assistants, as outlined in the report, pending final budget approval.

Background

Educational Assistants are allocated to schools to support students with exceptional needs in the following areas:

- Medical/Physical – supports physical/medical needs, such as mobility, therapy, medications, use of specialized equipment, personal care.
- Safety/Supervision – supports safety needs, such as supervision to ensure student safety or the safety of others, behaviour/safety plan support and implementation under the direction of the teacher.
- Communication/Autism Spectrum Disorder – supports needs of students with severe communication concerns or diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, such as supervision to ensure student safety or the safety of others, social/behaviour/life skills program support and implementation under the direction of the teacher.

The goal in Grand Erie is to provide the supports and resources necessary to ensure success for every student. The goal for all students is to support them to develop skills for independence. This includes students with special education needs.

Educational Assistant support is a resource that is provided to schools to support the programs that are in place for students with special education needs that are moving them toward independence. This requires intentional planning for decreased Educational Assistant support, ensuring that the support of this resource is as non-intrusive as possible. Things that are considered when assessing the need for Educational Assistant support at a school:

1. Educational Assistant support is assigned to support schools, not individual students or programs.
2. Educational Assistants are special education supports for a teacher or a classroom. They are not a student's personal assistant.
3. The support of a student by an educational assistant must include an intentional plan to fade their support in order to promote student independence.
4. There is a recognition that a small number of students will require on-going direct support due to pervasive needs.

Unnecessary Educational Assistant support can have a negative impact on students, which can significantly impact their progress and achievement in future grades.

Current Model of Support

There are several ways Educational Assistants provide support to students in Grand Erie.

Self-contained Classroom Educational Assistant

The Educational Assistant is assigned to self-contained classrooms to support programming and integration of students in the regular classroom. They can support in other classrooms as required when appropriate.

School Assigned Educational Assistant

The Educational Assistant is assigned to schools based on student needs across the school.

Occasional Educational Assistant

The Educational Assistant is assigned to the school when someone is absent.

Temporary Educational Assistant

The Educational Assistant is allocated to a school from the Special Education Department for short term support (generally less than two weeks) for a variety of reasons, where student need is generally not complex (initial implementation of a behaviour support plan, transition support.) Requests through the Teacher Consultant for Special Education is required to access this support.

Lead Educational Assistant

The Educational Assistant works in a leadership position and is part of the system multidisciplinary team. There are three areas of support that Lead Educational Assistants are assigned to: Complex Behaviour, Direct School support, and Student use of Assistive Technology. The Lead Educational Assistant coaches and supports educational assistants in schools that are working in challenging situations, who have exhausted their bank of strategies and require a new lens on situations, or who request a consult. Lead Educational Assistant support includes sharing and modelling strategies or supporting the implementation of student behaviour/safety plans, preparing materials, gathering resources, and preparing and providing professional development for other educational assistants. Attendance and participation in case conferences and work refusal meetings as a member of the multidisciplinary team is also part of the role of the Lead Educational Assistant.

Educational Assistant Allocation Criteria

The criteria in 2021-22 in Grand Erie for assigning Educational Assistants to schools will be:

- 2.0 for each Special Incident Portion (SIP) student
- 2.0 allocated to each Intensive Support Classroom, and Strategies classroom
- 1.0 allocated to each self-contained classroom for Life Skills, Vocational, Bridge, and Transitions.

Once these supports are deployed, we will continue to assign additional Educational Assistants to schools for Students with Pervasive and Extensive Support Requirements as determined through school and resource team meetings completed with the Teacher Consultant for Special Education. School needs will be continually reassessed to ensure that the focus on student independence and skill acquisition is monitored in relation to the level of support schools are allocated.

	S.I.P. Total Care 2.0 per student	Life Skills, Vocational, Bridge, Transitions 1.0 per class	Intensive Support, Strategies 2.0 per class	Extreme Support Requirements for Physical/ Medical Safety Needs (allocated to schools)	Transition EA's (system support as needs dictate)	Total Allocation	Lead EA's
2021-22	8	42	50	202	0	302.0	6
2020-21	8	42	50	202	0	302.0	6
2019-20	18	40	52	186	7	303.0	5

Additional Information

Grand Erie Teacher Consultants – Special Education have collaborated with school principals, teachers and relevant support staff to review student needs and to consider the number of Educational Assistants to be assigned to each school. The medical/physical needs, safety/supervision needs, as well as the communication/ASD needs of students along with self-contained classroom allocations are included in each School Educational Assistant Needs profile in an effort to better assess the total support requirement of each school. Also included in school projections is the data gathered from meetings between Teacher Consultants – Special Education and local agencies, Lansdowne Children's Centre and Haldimand-Norfolk Reach, in order to anticipate any additional supports that might be required for Kindergarten and Grade 1-aged students entering the system in Fall 2021.

As we continue to support classroom teachers to implement learning strategies and self-regulation programs that are necessary for some students but good for all students, we will continue to redefine the role of the Educational Assistant to not only provide supervision but to have a greater focus on supporting student skill development and independence. Before an Educational Assistant is assigned to a school to support students, the school will have to demonstrate that there is currently a specific program in the area of evidence-based behaviour intervention, social-emotional learning and/or self-regulation in place. The focus of the role of the Educational Assistant will be to implement these programs under the direction of the classroom teacher.

Budget Implications/Funding Source(s)

Pending approval of the 2021-22 budget.

Next Steps:

The Principal Leader-Special Education and Human Resources will notify schools of their allocations.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the Achievement and Well-Being indicators of Success for Every Student and the following statements: we will increase student and staff understanding of effective learning strategies and how to use them; we will create and promote an enabling environment where all students can participate fully in their education.

Respectfully submitted,

Liana Thompson
Superintendent of Education

GRAND ERIE'S STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PLAN 2020-21 – SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT SPECIAL EDUCATION MID-YEAR UPDATE

The focus is on the continued implementation of the renewed model in special education. Practices to support educator understanding of effective differentiated instruction and assessment for students with special education needs in both the face-to-face and virtual learning formats are of focus. Students will be supported to develop their understanding of effective strategies to support their social-emotional well-being and how to use them.

How will we know?

Educators will effectively differentiate and accommodate instruction and assessment to meet needs identified in student profiles.

How are we doing?

School level: Evidence of continued implementation of Tier 1 Interventions and classroom-based strategies before accessing outside supports.

Strategies to support Reading - Lexia

Lexia is an online reading intervention program available in both the elementary and secondary panels. In the elementary panel, Lexia has been provided to struggling readers in grades 2 to 6, and to some students with learning disabilities who have Special Equipment Amount (SEA) assistive technology in grades 7 and 8. In the secondary panel, Lexia has been provided to select secondary schools and used in self-contained Vocational and Bridge programs. Lexia is able to be provided in both face-to-face and virtual learning environments.

October 2020

90% of students with assigned licenses working below grade level
8% of students with assigned licenses working at grade level
2% of students with assigned licenses working above grade level
2964 certificates issued after mastery of a unit

February 2021

84% below grade level
13% at grade level
3% above grade level

Strategies to support the delivery of Alternative Curriculum - TeachTown

This is the first year Grand Erie has made TeachTown Basics available for use in the elementary panel. TeachTown offers a blend of computer-delivered and teacher-led Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) instruction proven to increase a student's vocabulary, listening skills, social-emotional development, independence, academics and cognitive skills. TeachTown automatically adapts based on each individual's progress providing meaningful instruction to all students. Student data is recorded, analyzed and organized into reports which provides classroom teachers with an effective method to monitor progress. TeachTown lessons are aligned to Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals for those students accessing alternative curriculum. TeachTown has been used primarily in Life Skills and Intensive Support – Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classrooms in the elementary panel. There are also a few students working on Alternative Programs in the regular classroom and in the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) using TeachTown.

Preliminary data:

96 active students and 73 active facilitators
Over 515 total hours spent working on the program
Over 700 passed /mastered lessons
Average minutes per student session 8:58 (goal is 15 minutes)

Strategies to Support Student Safety

Behaviour Counsellor Voice: Overall schools are striving to have some Tier 1 interventions in place before bringing the student to resource team. Often when entering the classroom for the first time to start a referral there needs to be some tweaking of those Tier 1 interventions, but overall most of the work is in Tier 2 now. Initial or continued data collection is a goal still in progress. Continued review of Tier 1 interventions with school staff may be a good idea in order to support the fidelity of implementation of specific Tier 1 strategies.

Access to the Learning Resource Teacher (LRT)

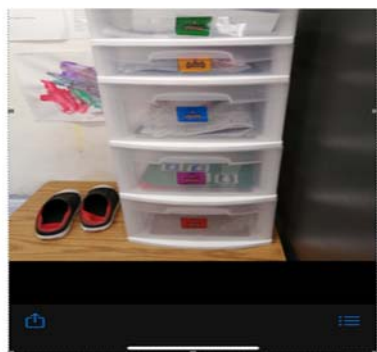
Elementary School: This school is using a posted whiteboard to support communication between the LRT and classroom staff. Because it is on a whiteboard, it can be changed based on staff or student need. It provides a visual, so classroom staff know when the LRT has time to support in the classroom. It can also be used as a “sign up” chart for school team meetings or case conferences.



Classroom level: Evidence of implementation of Tier 1 strategies to support Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and the full participation of students.

Tier 1 Interventions in the Classroom

Elementary School: This school is using visuals and a structured work system in a mainstream classroom for a student with Autism.



The use of breakout rooms during synchronous learning.

Student Voice: During a Student Senate roundtable discussion, secondary students recommend the use of breakout rooms because they can share their thoughts/ask questions in a “less intimidating” environment.

Teacher Voice: An intermediate staff member has shared that they are using breakout rooms when possible to monitor student progress and teach small group guided lessons.

Evidence continues to be gathered by advocacy groups for students with learning exceptionalities that supports the use of breakout rooms as a practice that is beneficial for students with special needs in the virtual learning environment. LD@School shared with educators in a webinar on teaching students with learning disabilities online (<https://www.ldatschool.ca/webinar-teaching-online/>) that working with small groups after class activities, scheduling regular ‘meets’ outside of synchronous time to check in and offer help to small groups of students promotes and supports student success.

Strategies to support staff capacity in meeting the needs of students with Autism - Enhanced Autism Training Program (EATP) for Learning Resource Teachers

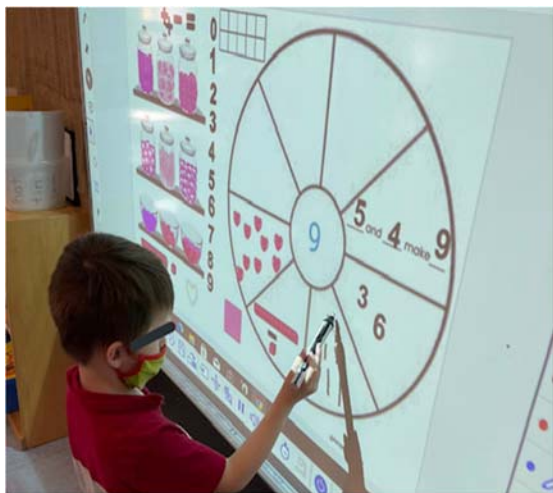
The Ontario Ministry of Education provided one-time funding to the Geneva Centre for Autism to offer the Enhanced Autism Training Program (EATP) to publicly funded school boards. In Grand Erie, training in the EATP has been offered to LRTs who support a self-contained Intensive Support – ASD classroom in their school. Eleven LRTs and the Program Coordinator – Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) will participate in an online, self-paced course through Sonderly (Geneva Centre for Autism), which will include two days of training and a virtual live session with a facilitator from the Geneva Centre for Autism in order to consolidate learning. Participants will also take part in synchronous and asynchronous virtual check-ins with the Grand Erie facilitator, Program Coordinator – ABA, throughout the training period

The goals of the program are to build LRT capacity to support classroom teachers with Tier 1 and 2 interventions to support students with ASD in their classrooms. Feedback and data will be collected and analyzed throughout the program. This information will be used to help design and implement future training opportunities for staff.

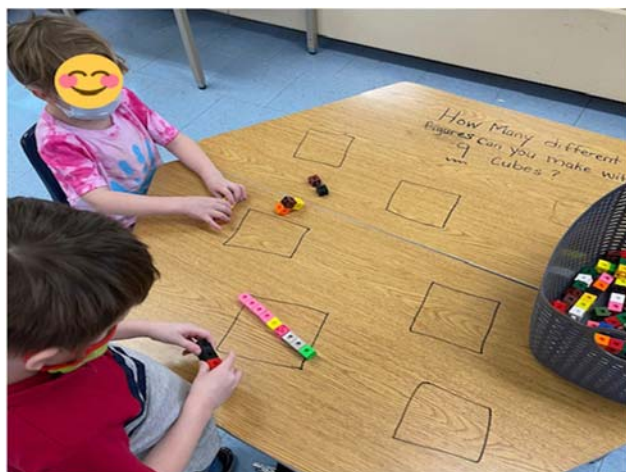
Strategies to support student access to the curriculum - The use of manipulatives, technology and visuals in the classroom.

A key component of UDL is the creation of classroom environments that are necessary for some students so that they can access meaningful educational opportunities, but good for all students.

Elementary School: Math lesson delivered with the use of technology.



Elementary School: Math lesson delivered with the use of manipulatives.



Elementary School: Math lesson delivered with the use of visuals.



Strategies to Support Students with Complex Needs in the Classroom

The following are examples of a grade 1 student at Elementary School being supported to move toward independence by the Educational Assistant in the classroom. Student has Autism and is part of the Connections for Students program. Educational Assistant is helping Student to be safe at school by teaching him how to stop at the classroom door. This is a skill that Student began learning while in Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) at Lansdowne Children's Centre and is now being generalized to the school setting. The staff at Elementary School have a comprehensive, evidence-based program in place for Student that includes environmental accommodations, and a differentiated academic program so that he can be successful at school. He is a happy, active, and valued member of his class and can participate meaningfully in the grade 1 program.



How will we know?

Students will understand and use information to promote and maintain positive mental health.

How are we doing?

Strategies to support mental health literacy

Both CYWs and SWs provide mental health literacy in individual and classroom settings (for example a Health & Phys. class). This information helps students understand, problem solve, and develop the skills to respond in a healthy manner to stress and anxiety.

Staff members take initiative for implementation of their own professional learning goals and growth.

Strategies to support ongoing professional learning – the Rick Hansen Foundation Partnership
Grand Erie's partnership with the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) continues to bring a unique opportunity to create meaningful dialogue in our classrooms around ability and accessibility. Throughout the month of December, educators and their students were invited to take part in one of 12 scheduled presentations from a diverse group of RHF ambassadors who shared their lived experiences. RHF ambassadors advocated for increased accessibility and inclusion and answered students' questions.

The response from participants in these sessions was overwhelming. Staff members shared that students asked open, thought-provoking and authentic questions of the ambassadors. No question was out of bounds and ambassadors were pleased to be able to share their stories about living with a physical disability. As a result, educators began to access the RHF online resource Little Big Lessons to use in their classrooms as a follow up to the presentations in which they participated. 56 Little Big Lessons were downloaded by teachers through the December 2020 Ambassador Presentation series lesson suggestion links or from gedsb.elearningontario.ca. Teachers who may have accessed Little Big Lessons from visiting the RHF website independently of these links cannot be measured. Also, educators have asked for future RHF ambassador presentations.

How will we know?

Students learn social-emotional skills and understand the positive relationship to overall well-being and competency and confidence as a learner.

How are we doing?

Strategies to support social-emotional learning

Child & Youth Workers (CYWs) deliver classroom-based social-emotional learning, particularly in the areas of self-regulation, conflict resolution and establishing and maintaining healthy relationships. If needed, CYWs also provide smaller group targeted prevention and individual coaching in those same key areas of social-emotional development.

Social Workers (SWs) provide individual counselling, referrals to community agencies, and assessment and support during crises.

Social-Emotional Learning: 2020-2021	
Consultation with Educators	64
Consultation & Program Support	20
Delivering Professional Development	30
*Number of Social-Emotional Program Delivered	195
Total Number of Students receiving Tier 1 & Tier 2 supports & activities	7522

**single or multiple sessions both in person and virtual sessions*

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the Achievement indicator of Success for Every Student and the following statement: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes."