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January 16, 2019

Honourable Lisa Thompson  
Minister of Education  
Mowat Block 22nd Floor  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Thompson:

We are writing to express our concern at how Peel District School Board students are being negatively impacted by recent changes in funding to special education.

On August 24, 2018, Deputy Minister Rodrigues informed school boards of significant changes in funding for special education. Of particular concern was the decrease in the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) maximum claim amount from \$38,016 to \$27,405. Although the memo states that, "Savings incurred from this adjustment will be reinvested into the Special Education Per-Pupil Amount Allocation funding," this has not been true for the Peel Board. In fact, this change in funding resulted in a loss of \$850,000 for students with special education needs in our board.

We are concerned that the Ministry of Education has chosen to reduce funding so dramatically, especially as the number of Peel Board students eligible for the SIP continues to increase. Since 2016-2017, our number of SIP claims has increased from 298 to over 376.

As this funding provides support for some of our most vulnerable students, it is our hope that you will re-visit funding for special education programs in your planning for the 2019-2020 budget year. We urge you to increase the SIP maximum claim amount so that Peel students will be funded appropriately.

Sincerely,

Shelley Foster  
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee  
Peel District School Board

c.c. Stan Cameron, Chair, Peel District School Board  
Sue Lawton, Vice-Chair, Peel District School Board  
Peter Joshua, Director of Education, Peel District School Board  
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