



Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder – Report to SEAC

May 6, 2019



Funding for Families – Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI)

The Ontario Autism Program (OAP) is a Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) program that provides funding to Ontario families of children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Funding for Families

Prior to March 31, 2019 The Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC) was the single point of access for the OAP for families living within the TVDSB region.

Effective April 1, New Childhood Budgets were introduced to provide families with direct funding so that they can access a broad range of eligible services:

- Behavioural services (Intensive Behavioural Intervention - IBI)
- Speech Language Pathology
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Respite services, etc.



Funding for Families

- ☐ Children under the age of 6 are eligible to receive \$20,000 / annually
- ☐ Children 6- 18 are eligible to receive \$5,000 / annually
- ☐ In addition to the 42 private Behaviour Intervention providers in the region, TVCC is moving to the purchased services model. The program is now called the 'Autism and Behavioural Services (ABS)
- ☐ McMaster Children's Hospital is the hub for the Western Region of Ontario
 - ☐ TVCC has been subcontracted to provide diagnosis in the Thames Valley region.



Funding for Families

- ☐ Information gathered from TVCC and providers of Behaviour Therapy Services suggests that as many as 42 new students with ASD will register with the Thames Valley DSB with a September 2019 start date
 - ☐ This does not include children / youth who have not yet been diagnosed with ASD.

- ☐ OAP data in the SW Ontario Region
 - ☐ 260 active files in the OAP supported by TVCC
 - ☐ 228 students receive less than 5 hours a week of therapy
 - ☐ 32 students receive intensive intervention services and are not currently attending school
 - ☐ 570 children / youth are on the waitlist for services (most of whom are already in our schools)



Funding for Families

☐ 570 students on the waitlist

- ☐ 399 in London / Middlesex
- ☐ 86 in Oxford County
- ☐ 87 in Elgin County

☐ 25 elementary aged students are expected to be transitioning from part-time status to full-time school between April 1 – June 27, 2019



Funding for Educational Institutions 2018-2019

- ❑ On March 11, 2019 to the MoE announced an extended count date for those students who have been receiving OAP services and are newly enrolled in school between April – June 2019
 - ❑ \$12,300 (average) per pupil
 - ❑ 10 students have registered in TVDSB schools on, or after April 1, 2019



Educator Professional Learning

- ❑ The MoE has committed \$1 million in annual funding to fully subsidize teachers who wish to acquire the *Teaching Students with Communication Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder)* additional qualification.
- ❑ P/PM 151 will be amended to:
 - ❑ Suggest school boards include professional development opportunities for teachers on supporting students with ASD (2019-2020)
 - ❑ Mandate professional development for teachers on supporting students with ASD (2020 – 2021)



Behaviour Expertise Amount Allocation (BEA)

- ❑ Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) is an approach to teaching skills based on the principals of learning and behaviour.
- ❑ The BEA provides funding for school boards to hire board-level ABA expertise professionals (BCBAs).
 - ❑ The TVDSB currently has 4 BCBA professionals on staff.



Priorities and Partnership Fund (PPF)

- ❑ The PPF will replace the previous Education Programs – Other (EPO) funding
- ❑ After School Skills Development Program
 - ❑ Was previously piloted in 8 DSB in Ontario
 - ❑ Will focus on “social, communication, self-regulation, and life-planning skills development”
 - ❑ \$6.1 million dollar initiative (72 DSBs)



Thank you / Questions