



## Special Education Plan

### Standard 1: The Board's Consultation Process for the Special Education Plan

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's consultation process to the Ministry and to the public. The Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) values collaboration with families, community partners and stakeholders, and welcomes input into the Special Education Plan at any time through the Special Education website. Staff members have regular and ongoing communication with parents/guardians, system staff and community agencies/associations. As a school board committed to continuous improvement, we value and welcome input received through formal and informal processes. The feedback gathered influences the decisions by the Thames Valley District School Board on the provision of programs, services and resources.

~~The TVDSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) reviews sections of the Special Education Plan at their monthly meetings; SEAC members are able to share information from their respective associations/agencies and provide feedback.~~

#### Public Consultation with Support from SEAC

In Ontario, school boards are required to establish a SEAC to provide advice about special education programs and services. SEAC is currently comprised of 9 associations, 3 Trustees and 6 "members at large" that further the interests and well-being of students identified with exceptionalities. SEAC members make recommendations to their board on any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students.

Every member of SEAC assumes responsibility for speaking with members of the public, either through association meetings, or through informal conversations with parents. This input is reflected in the feedback provided through monthly SEAC meetings.

Every monthly agenda includes a section for "Association Updates", at which time members may introduce matters of interest or concern. Key initiatives of the associations can be shared through this process.

SEAC meetings are open to members of the public. SEAC meeting processes allow for members of the public to speak as a delegation to SEAC. If members of the public would like to make a presentation to SEAC, they are encouraged to contact the SEAC chair or the TVDSB Superintendent responsible for overseeing the Special Education Department. Delegations may be given up to 10 minutes for presentations as determined by the chair. SEAC meeting

processes also allow for members of the public to ask questions. Depending on the nature of the questions, answers may be received during the meeting or at the next meeting.

### SEAC Involvement in the Review Process

Each year SEAC is provided with the opportunity to participate in the annual review of the board's Special Education Plan and makes recommendations about improving special education resources, programs and services. A subcommittee is formed of staff and SEAC members to review the plan and make necessary revisions. The plan is revised by staff and reviewed with the SEAC committee at monthly meetings to gain further input. The SEAC committee then votes to support or not support the amended plan each year.

### Majority or Minority Reports, Board Response

Associations have an opportunity each year to submit a Majority or Minority Report to the Chair and Trustees of the Board concerning the Board's Special Education Plan. The Board issues a response to this report and both are attached as appendices to the plan.

*There were no majority or minority reports\* concerning the Board's approved plan in 2017-2018.*

### Means of Communication

The Thames Valley District School Board communicates with parents, board employees and the community in a number of ways.

The Thames Valley District School Board and SEAC are continuously looking for ways to improve the special education section on the TVDSB website. We endeavour to improve the online experience for parents/guardians to easily access information about our board's special education programs and services. Furthermore, there is a section for SEAC that includes member contact information, agendas and minutes.

- ~~• There were no majority or minority reports\* concerning the Board's approved plan in 2017-2018.~~

~~Opportunities for public consultation are provided through the Board's website and the Special Education E-News notification at [specialplan@tvdsb.on.ca](mailto:specialplan@tvdsb.on.ca).~~

~~In 2017-18, SEAC, the Special Education Department and Research and Assessment focused on results from the 2016-17 Special Education Plan survey that was conducted.~~

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It is a goal of the Thames Valley DSB's SEAC ~~The priority area of focus was~~ to raise awareness and understanding of the ~~TVDSB~~ Special Education Plan ~~and related services~~. To endeavor to meet this focus, a SEAC Sub-Committee:

- ~~• Created a summary of the standards of the Special Education Plan which is to be posted on the Special Education Plan website;~~
- ~~• Shared information for all school councils about the Special Education plan and invited their input;~~
- Increased awareness of the Special Education Plan as part of **parent information nights**, regular professional development with administrators, Learning Support Teachers and other staff;
- Continued to revise each standard to ensure current information and clarity of content;
- Prepared a new SEAC brochure;
- Conducted consultation around Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) placement options;
- Conducted surveys of staff and parents/guardians to inform the Special Education Behavioural/Mental Health Program Review.

### What are our next steps?

- ~~• Review the 2017 Special Education Plan survey for other areas for improvement and determine SEAC priority in this area;  
Consider another survey in the future.~~
- Share information with all school councils about the Special Education Plan and invite their input;
- *Initiate a program review of Special Education programs and services and the model of delivery, with an emphasis on professional services.*