



Algoma District School Board

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January 21, 2025

Linda Lacroix, Registrar and CEO
Office of the Register
Ontario College of Teachers

Dear Linda Lacroix,

The Algoma District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is writing to support the November 6, 2024 letter sent by the Limestone District School Board SEAC to bring forward concerns related to teacher training in special education at faculties of education across Ontario.

The lack of consistent training in special education during initial teacher education programs is a concern for many school boards. Despite the diversity of learners in Ontario classrooms, many teachers do not receive enough preparation in this area prior to beginning their careers.

Teachers must be well-prepared to address the wide range of needs and abilities that they will encounter in the classroom. Teachers that receive special education training as part of their teacher preparation programming are far better equipped to implement the principles of Universal Design for Learning and differentiate instruction effectively for all students, including those with special education needs. Additionally, training helps to ensure that teachers understand the many diverse needs of our learners, enabling them to develop and implement Individual Education Plans (IEPs) effectively beginning with their first days in our classrooms.

The ADSB SEAC echoes the call of the Limestone DSB SEAC for the College of Teachers, in consultation with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Education, to ensure that special education training becomes a required component of all teacher preparation programs in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Pat Mick

Pat Mick,
Chair
Algoma District School Board SEAC