

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 throughout the academic year through the Special Education website or directly to staff using the [Special Education Plan email address](#) that has been established specifically for this purpose. Staff members have regular and ongoing communication with parents/guardians, system staff, and community agencies and associations. As a school board committed to continuous improvement, we ~~value~~**value**, and welcome input received through formal and informal processes. The feedback gathered influences the decisions made by the TVDSB on the provision of programs, services, and resources.

Scheduled Program Reviews

During the 2024-2025 school year, a review of the TVDSB Giftedness Program is planned.

In addition, a process and schedule for program reviews for all exceptionalities will be established.

Information about the TVDSB's Special Education Plan and all associated resources, will be shared with the following:

- The Special Education Department will share with school principals so they can share with School Councils
- The Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committees
- The Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations
- The Student Advisory Council

Public Consultation with Support from SEAC

In Ontario, school boards are required to establish a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to provide advice about special education programs and services. The TVDSB SEAC is currently comprised of six (6) Local Associations, three (3) Trustees and six (6) Additional Members that further the interests and well-being of students identified with exceptionalities. SEAC members make recommendations to the 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/guardians. 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 provide updates to the committee on matters pertaining to their respective association. This may include, but is not limited to, introducing matters of interest or concern, key initiatives of the associations, upcoming events and/or celebrations, et cetera.

SEAC meetings are open to members of the public who are welcome to attend and observe the proceedings. SEAC meeting processes also allow for members of the public to speak as a delegation to SEAC on matters affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students. If members of the public would like to make a presentation to SEAC, they are encouraged to complete a [Public Input application by clicking HERE](#). Oral presentations will be a maximum ten (10) minutes for an approved delegation representing a School Council, or a Home and School Association in good standing, minutes for an approved delegation representing a School Council, or a Home and School Association in good standing, and five (5) minutes for individuals or representatives of any other organization/group. SEAC meeting processes also allow for members of SEAC to ask questions of the delegation. Depending on the nature of the questions, answers may be received during the meeting or at the next meeting.

SEAC’s Involvement in the Review Process

In accordance with Regulation 464/97, each year, SEAC is provided with the opportunity to participate in the annual review of the board's *Special Education Plan*. An open invitation is extended to all SEAC members to collaborate with staff through a Special Education Plan Sub-Committee. As a key contributor to the Special Education Plan, SEAC members are encouraged to make recommendations about how best to improve and/or enhance the special education resources, programs, and services available to Thames Valley DSB students. Staff review and update the Special Education Plan Standards annually. Standards are shared with SEAC, or the Special Education Plan sub-committee if appointed, for input and review. Following this, staff consider recommendations made by the sub-committee. It is our typical process to share various sections (or Standards) of the plan with SEAC over the course of the academic year. This final review of the plan typically occurs in June of every year and is done in advance of the final plan being shared with the Board of Trustees. To signal its support of the plan, the SEAC committee votes on a motion to endorse the amended plan each year.

Majority or Minority Reports, Board Response

A minority report is made by a group of people within a larger group who disagree with the report of the whole group. SEAC Member Associations have an opportunity each year to submit a Minority Report to the Chair of SEAC and Board of Trustees concerning the board's *Special Education Plan*. The Board of Trustees will issue a response to this report. This response may include, for example, an acknowledgement of receipt of the minority report, potential next steps, et cetera. Should a minority report be received, that report and the Board's response would be attached as appendices to the Special Education Plan. A template for a minority report and further details about the report have been included in the [TVDSB's SEAC Handbook](#).

There were no minority reports submitted during the 202~~4~~3-202~~5~~4 academic year.

Means of Communication

TVDSB and SEAC communicate with and receive feedback from parents/guardians, board employees and the community throughout the year in these ways.

- TVDSB website
- TVPIC to share with School Councils
- Through SEAC member organizations
- TVDSB email address

Parents/Guardians and members of the community are able to provide input throughout the school year.

SEAC member contact information is provided on the website.

Public Feedback on the Special Education Plan

During the 202~~4~~3-202~~5~~4 academic year, feedback was sought from members of the public on the board's Special Education Plan through either the Special Education Plan email address (specedplan@tvdsb.ca) or by direct communication with members of the department.

Community Consultation

The board staff in conjunction with SEAC, determined that an area of focus was to raise awareness and understanding of the TVDSB Special Education Plan:

- Increased awareness of the Special Education Plan as part of regular professional development with administrators, Learning Support Teachers, and other staff;
- Continued to revise each standard to ensure current information and clarity of content;
- In June 202~~5~~⁴, the Special Education Plan 202~~5~~⁴-202~~6~~⁵ was posted on the Board's website under Public Input. ~~Feedback was not received in 2023-2024 by any individuals.~~
- Stakeholders can utilize the QR code below to access and provide input on the 202~~5~~⁴-202~~6~~⁵ Special Education Plan.

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