How can I become involved with SEAC?

Parents, community members or members of local associations wishing representation on SEAC should write to:
SEACchair@granderie.ca

How can I express my views on a Special Education Topic to SEAC?

Parents, community members or members of local associations wishing to express their views on a special education topic should write to:
SEACchair@granderie.ca

Who Should I Contact with Questions about Special Education Services or Programs?

Services:
Principal Leader of Special Education
519-756-6306, ext. 287214

Programs:
Program Coordinator of Special Education
519-756-6306, ext. 287217

SPECIAL EDUCATION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

It is the policy of the Grand Erie District School Board that special education services within the Board are guided by the following principles:

1. All students can succeed. Success looks different for different students.
2. Education is differentiated for students, and provided for students in the whole class, in groups, and very rarely on a one-to-one basis.
3. Students learn differently and have different educational goals. Educators respond to these differences when planning and delivering programs.
4. The goal for all schools is to create environments that consider and include the learning needs of all students.
5. Resources are provided to support students to become independent in reaching their educational goals.
6. The classroom teacher and early childhood educator are the primary support for all students in school. Human resource supports such as learning resource teachers, educational assistants and other support staff work as a support to the classroom teacher and early childhood educator to address the needs of the students.
7. Students are educated in their community schools if this is the more enabling environment for their learning. Self-contained classroom placements are available if regular class placement cannot meet the needs of students.
8. Fairness is not sameness. Students are provided with resources and supports that will assist them to become independent in reaching their educational goals.

Note:

See Board Policy P1 Special Education Guiding Principles for further information.

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Success for Every Student

SEAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Serving Students with Exceptional Needs

This brochure was endorsed by Grand Erie DSB SEAC December 2018

The Grand Erie District School Board believes every student has individual learning needs, and when those needs are met, the student can experience success. Some students have exceptional learning needs and may require special programs and services.

A student with exceptional needs is a learner whose behaviour, communication, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that he/she is considered to need special education programs as defined in the Education Act.

This brochure has been produced to inform the community, parents/guardians and educators about the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

What is SEAC?

- SEAC is an advisory committee mandated through the Education Act as a standing committee of each school board.
- The committee reports to the school board and makes recommendations to the board regarding special education program and services.

Who is on SEAC?

- The SEAC of the Grand Erie District School Board is comprised of:
  a) representatives of up to 12 local chapters of associations which further the interests of people with exceptional needs;
  b) one person representing the interests of Native Students;
  c) board personnel;
  d) Parents and other community members;
  e) two trustees.

What does SEAC do?

- The Special Education Advisory Committee is provided with the opportunities to:
  a) participate in the board's annual Special Education Plan;
  b) participate in the board's annual budget process;
  c) review the financial statements of the board;
  d) make recommendations to the board regarding special education programs and service.
  e) a special education advisory committee of a board may make recommendations to the board in respect of any matter affecting the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the board.

When does SEAC meet?

- SEAC meetings are held on a monthly basis, with a minimum of ten meetings per school year.
- The meetings are held at the Education Centre, 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, and are open to the public.

What can SEAC do for me?

- SEAC is a committee that represents the interests of all children with exceptional needs.
- Although specific children and issues are not discussed at SEAC, broad issues affecting services across the school board can be raised for discussion.
- SEAC representatives have a good knowledge of special education services and programs of the school board, and can help parents to navigate through the school system.

Resources / Publications

- The following resources / publications are available at your local school or at the Grand Erie board office (519) 756-6301:
  a) Individual Education Plan (IEP) - A Guide for Parents
  b) Parents' Guide to Special Education - Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC.)

Websites:

- www.granderie.ca
- www.edu.gov.on.ca

SEAC REPRESENTATIVES

Community Representatives

- Carol Brady 289-244-8743
- Beth Caers 905-768-3222
- Michelle Carpenter 519-442-7209
- Gary Drake 519-573-2895
- Michelle Falkiner, 519-755-7667
- Kathy Jones 519-586-8852
- Wendy Rose 519-448-1569
- Kyle Smith 519-755-4153 (Chair 2018)
- Tara Wilson 226-493-1111
- Rochelle Winter 519-720-6778

Native Representative

- Audrey Powless Bomberry 519-717-2721

Trustees

- Rita Collver, 519-582-4969 (V-Chair 2018)
- Susan Gibson 519-771-9622

Staff

- Liana Thompson, Superintendent of Education 519-756-6306 ext. 281122
- Paula Curran, SEAC Recording Secretary 519-756-6306 ext. 281173

Resource

- Piyali Bagchee, Mental Health & Wellness Lead 519-756-6306 ext. 287226
- Lesley Boudreault, Program Coordinator Special Education 519-756-6306 ext. 287217
- Karin Mertins, School & Programs Supports Lead 519-756-6306, ext. 287219
- Lindsay Sheppard, Applied Behaviour Analysis Coordinator 519-756-6306, ext 287227
- Julie White, Principal Leader Special Education 519-756-6306, ext. 287214

Local Organizations / Agencies

- **Contact Brant**
  LeaAnn Boswell 519-758-8228 ext. 228
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (ONE)**
  Dr. Louise Scott, 519-414-9444
- **Haldimand-Norfolk REACH**
  Ronelda Smith, 519-426-7899
- **Lansdowne Children's Centre**
  Lorraine DeJong, 519-753-3153 ext. 202
- **Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services**
  Christina Clattenburg, 519-752-5308 ext. 137