

Support and Resources

How can I become involved with SEAC? Parents, community members or members of local associations wishing representation on SEAC should write to:

info@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:

info@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



SUCCESS for Every Student

**Grand Erie
District School Board**

Tel: 519-756-6301

Toll Free: 1-888-548-8878

Email: info@granderie.ca

www.granderie.ca

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:

- All students can succeed. Success looks different for different students.
- Education is differentiated for students, and provided for students in the whole class, in groups, and very rarely on a one-to-one basis.
- Students learn differently and have different educational goals. Educators respond to these differences when planning and delivering programs.
- The goal for all schools is to create environments that consider and include the learning needs of all students.
- Resources are provided to support students to become independent in reaching their educational goals.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



Parents' Guide to **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)



SUCCESS for Every Student



Success for Every Student

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 the Special Education Advisory Committee (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 the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)?

The SEAC of the Grand Erie District School Board is comprised of:

- representatives of up to 12 local chapters of associations which further the interests of people with exceptional needs;
- one person representing the interests of Native Students;
- board personnel;
- parents and other

What does SEAC do?

The Special Education Advisory Committee is provided with the opportunities to:

- participate in the board's annual Special Education Plan;
- participate in the board's annual budget process;
- review the financial statements of the board;
- make recommendations to the board regarding special education programs and service.
- 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:

- Parents' Guide to Special Education – Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Parents' Guide to Special Education - Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

Websites:

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

SEAC Representatives

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- **Paula Boutis** 416-802-3118
- **Carol Brady** 289-244-8743
- **Beth Caers** 905-768-3222
- **Michelle Carpenter** 519-442-7209
- **Mike Gatopoulos** 519-717-0874
- **Kathy Jones** 519-586-8852
- **Wendy Rose** 519-448-1569 (Vice-Chair 2020)
- **Joe Trovato** 289- 218-7592
- **Tara Wilson** 226-493-1111
- **Rochelle Winter** 519-720-6778

NATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

- **Vacant**

TRUSTEES

- **Rita Collver** 519-582-4969
- **Tom Waldschmidt** 519-442-2140 (Chair 2020)

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 & Program 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

- **Community Living Brant**
Tara Buchanan, 519-753-6303, ext. 441
- **Contact Brant**
LeaAnn Boswell, 519-758-8228 ext. 228
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (ONE)**
Dr. Louise Scott, 519-414-9444
- **Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H.**
Alicia Csoff, 519-909-9193
- **Lansdowne Children's Centre**
Lorraine DeJong, 519-753-3153 ext. 202
- **Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services**
Amanda Detmar, 519-752-5308, ext. 103