



Special Education Plan

2021-22

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Standard 1:

THE BOARD'S CONSULTATION PROCESS

The purpose of this standard is to provide details of the Board's consultation process to the Ministry and to the public

The Grand Erie District School Board values collaboration with families and community members.

Consultation with the Special Education Advisory Committee

Consultation with the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) occurs on an ongoing basis throughout the year. SEAC as part of the annual review of the Special Education Plan before it is presented to the Board of Trustees for approval and then submitted to the Ministry of Education in accordance with Regulation 464/97.

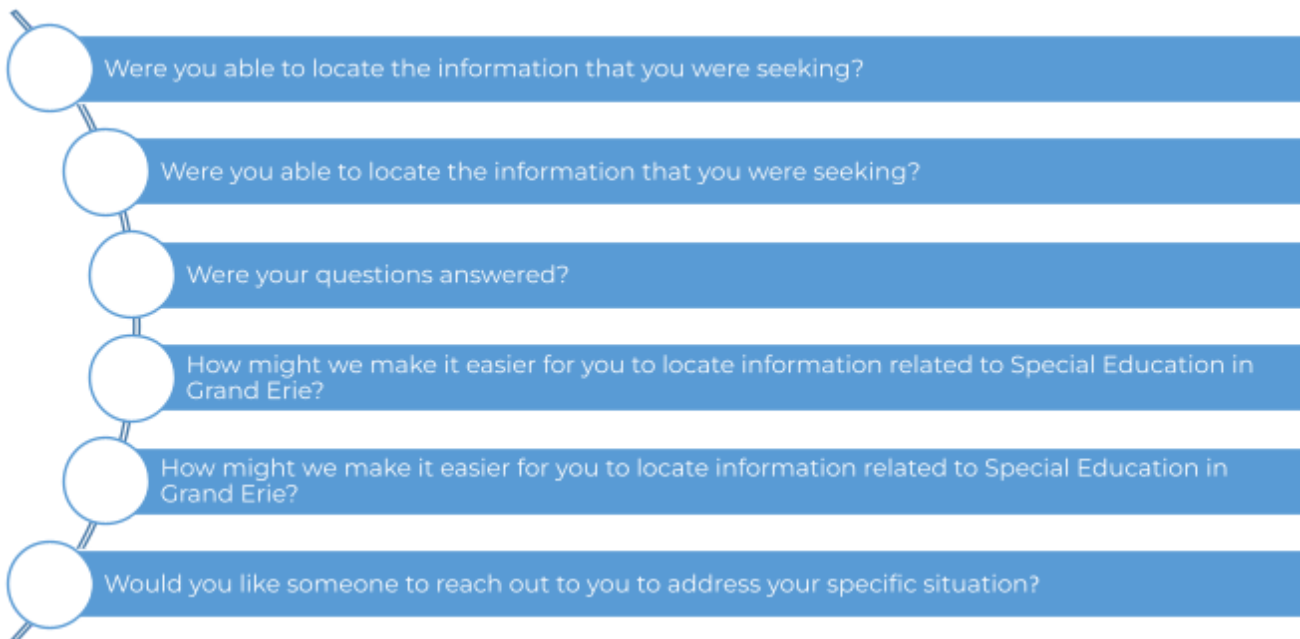
Descriptions of any majority or minority reports received from members of SEAC concerning the Board's approved plan are as follows:

- None Received

Community Consultation

A copy of the Special Education Plan is posted on the Grand Erie District School Board website <https://granderie.ca/board/programsandlearning/special-education>

There is an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the Plan through a survey link when the Special Education Plan is accessed. The following are the questions asked of those who access the Grand Erie Special Education Plan on the Board website.



Were you able to locate the information that you were seeking?

Were you able to locate the information that you were seeking?

Were your questions answered?

How might we make it easier for you to locate information related to Special Education in Grand Erie?

How might we make it easier for you to locate information related to Special Education in Grand Erie?

Would you like someone to reach out to you to address your specific situation?

No Feedback was received during the 2021-2022 school year.

Internal and External Reviews of Existing Special Education Programs and Services There were

no formal internal or external reviews of existing special education programs and services.

As a result of consultations with and input from Grand Erie's SEAC, school administrators and senior administration, the following changes to special education programs and service delivery occurred in the 2021-22 school year:

Mental Health Strategy

- Meetings held during the school year with the Grand Erie Mental Health Advisory Committee
- The Manager of Mental Health and Well-Being Services attended Child & Youth Planning meetings with community agencies.
- The Manager of Mental Health and Well-Being Services met regularly with the Directors of REACH and Woodview Child & Youth Mental Health Services to ensure on-going problem solving and up-to-date communication.
- As part of Grand Erie's Mental Health Strategy, continued to provide students with opportunities for sequenced and grade-appropriate social-emotional learning, while also building the capacity of educators to support students in this area.
- CYWs were an integral part of In-School Teams, where they provided advice, education and resources on social-emotional learning, self-regulation, healthy relationships, and mental health awareness.
- The Suicide Risk Protocol and Non-Suicidal Self-Injurious Behaviour Protocols were reviewed at a System Leaders meeting and in Resource Team Meetings.
- The Grand Erie Traumatic Events Response Protocol was reviewed with the Safe & Inclusive Schools Lead, School Mental Health Ontario, and Support Staff.
- Through discussions at staff and supervision meetings, School Social Workers (SW) consistently used the suicide risk assessment, safety planning and tracking form.
- Where appropriate, SWs completed referrals to Mental Health & Addiction Nurses and community agencies.
- CYWs and SWs supported traumatic events and completed Violent Threat Risk Assessments.
- To protect personal health information and enhance communication, revisions were made to the pathway to care with McMaster Children's Hospital.
- Established a Mental Health & Well Being Digital Resource Binder on the Brightspace platform.
- Established 4 Working Groups: Self-Regulation, Anxiety, Personal Health Information and Culturally Responsive Social Emotional Learning.
- Worked with Safe & Inclusive Schools and the Grand Erie Equity Lead Teacher Consultant on Social Justice and Human Rights classroom presentations.
- Participated and provided multiple classroom activities during Mental Health Week, Bell Let's Talk and Pink Shirt Day.
- Trained staff in evidence-based structured psychotherapy (Brief Interventions for School Counselors Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Virtual Counseling) to ensure effective counseling for students.
- Provided professional learning to school staff in trauma-informed care and practices, Shanker & Hopkins Self-Reg Schools and The Third Path.
- Maintained SO108 Partnerships and communicated with community partners, when needed.
- Attended regular meetings with community mental health agencies, the Public Health Unit and McMaster Hospital.

Mental Health Strategy Contd...

The following principles guide the implementation of the Child and Youth Mental Health Strategy in Grand Erie:

- Student mental health and well-being is fundamentally connected to achievement.
- Safe and inclusive school cultures are necessary for students to flourish.
- Engagement among students, parents, staff, and community is essential for a supportive learning environment.
- Commitment to ongoing learning for all is critical to maximizing our students' education experience.
- Evidence-based/informed practices will be used to guide training and interventions to support students' mental health and well-being.
- Alignment and coordination efforts with community partners will maximize efficiency of resources and strengthen outcomes for students.
- The unique strengths and needs of each school community will be honoured to ensure support is flexible and responsive.

Standard 2:

THE BOARD'S GENERAL MODEL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

The purpose of this standard is to provide the ministry and the public with information on the Board's philosophy and service delivery model for the provision of special education programs and services.

Grand Erie's model for Special Education service provision has been designed to comply with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Education Act and Regulations made under the Act, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and any other relevant legislation.

Vision for Special Education

Services and programs supporting students with special education needs are provided in a manner that is consistent with the Board's mission "Together, we build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging to inspire each learner". Special Education Programs are delivered in the most enabling environments for learning so that students can participate fully in their educational program. School board staff and families and caregivers work collaboratively.

Special education programs and services within Grand Erie are guided by the following principles:

- All students can succeed. Success looks different for different students.
- All students have a right to dignity, respect, equality, choice, voice and full- participation in barrier-free schools and classrooms.
- Students are educated in their community schools if this is the most enabling environment for their learning.
- Diversity in ability is welcomed and positively impacts educational outcomes.
- The principles of accessible education, equity, equality, and human rights are provided in stand-alone, and are embedded into all, learning opportunities.
- Universal design for learning supports accessible curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- There are high expectations for all learners, facilitated through responsive teaching pedagogies, learning and assessment opportunities.
- Resources are provided to support students to become as independent as possible in reaching their educational goals.
- The classroom educators are the primary support for all students in school. Additional human resource supports work as partners with the classroom educators by coaching, co-teaching, and co-learning in order to address the strengths and needs of the students.
- All work together to create and maintain inclusive and equitable school communities and eliminate barriers to full participation.
- Intentional collection, analysis and use of relevant data to fully understand learners' strengths and needs removes barriers and supports appropriate interventions.
- Fairness is not sameness. Students are provided with resources and supports that will assist them to become independent in reaching their educational goals.

Classroom Placements

Classroom placements are provided on a continuum based upon the strengths and needs of the student. The continuum includes:

- Regular classroom with Universal Design for Learning, responsive, relevant, and culturally sustainable instruction and assessment and accommodations.
- Self-contained special education classrooms, partially integrated.
- Self-contained special education classrooms fully contained.
- Wrap-around supports and services.

Accessing Special Services

When a diverse learning strength or need is identified after Universal Design for Learning and responsive instruction and assessment have been implemented in the classroom, it can be addressed at a school team or resource team meeting.

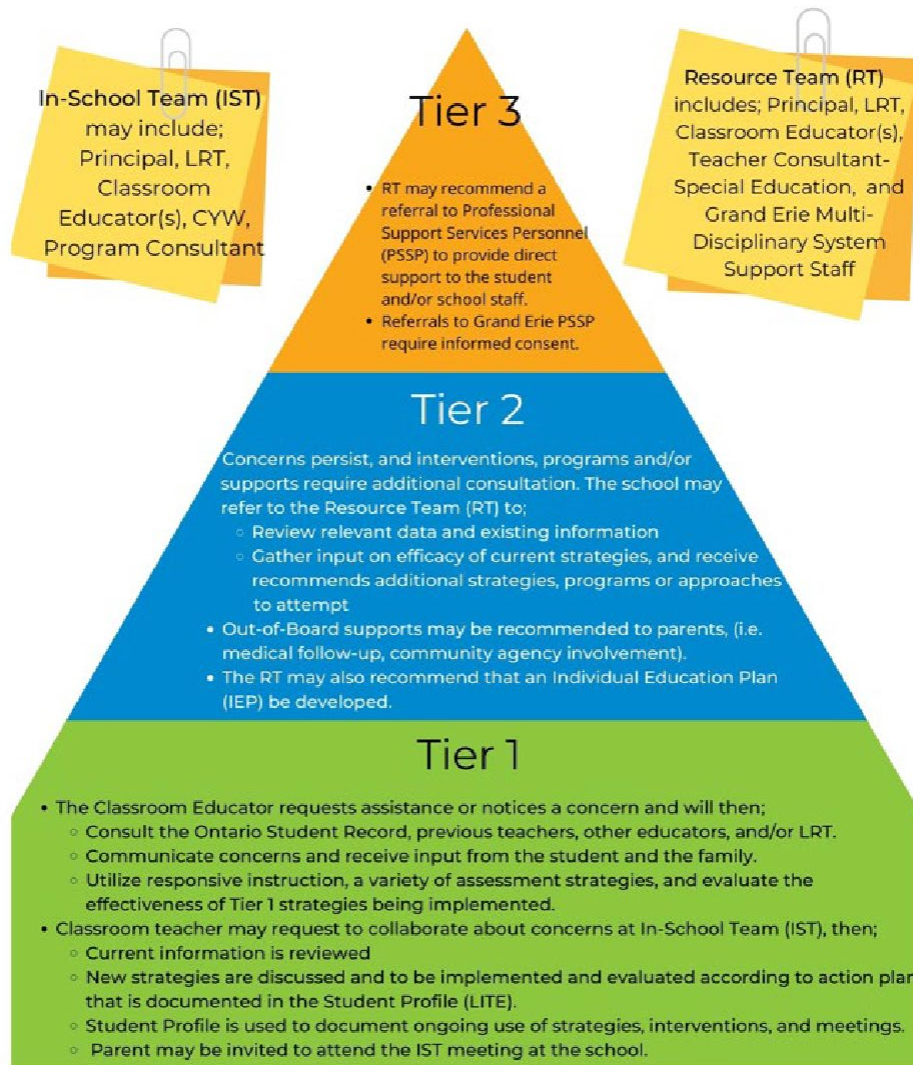
School Team

School team plays a significant role in helping classroom educators address difficulties that a student may be experiencing in the classroom. The school team meets regularly to build the capacity of all educators to provide accessible and meaningful educational opportunities for all students. School team occurs prior to, and following, formal assessment and identification.

Resource Team

The multi-disciplinary team includes system staff members that support educators to problem-solve and enhance their own capacity to learn and implement additional Tier 1, 2, or 3 strategies to support students. The Resource Team may recommend to the Principal referral of the student to an Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

Tiered Approach to Prevention and Intervention



Parents/guardians:

- will be informed if their child is being discussed at Resource Team
- will be invited to provide input and/or attend the meeting
- will be informed of the date, time, purpose, and staff invited prior to the meeting
- may attend the meeting
- will be provided information about the outcome of the meeting and next steps

Standard 3:

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the standard is to provide the public with information on roles and responsibilities in the area of Special Education.

The Ministry of Education defines roles and responsibilities in elementary and secondary education in several key areas:

- legislative and policy framework
- funding school system
- management programs and curriculum

It is important that all involved in Special Education understand their roles and responsibilities, which are outlined below:

The Ministry of Education

- defines, through the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda, the legal obligations of School Boards regarding the provision of Special Education Programs and Services and prescribes the categories and definitions of exceptionality.
- ensures that School Boards provide Special Education Programs and Services for their exceptional pupils.
- establishes the funding for Special Education through the structure of the funding model. The model consists of the Foundation Grant, the Special Education Grant, and other special purpose grants.
- requires School Boards to report on their expenditures for Special Education.
- sets province-wide standards for curriculum and reporting of achievement.
- requires School Boards to maintain Special Education Plans, review them annually, and submit amendments to the Ministry.
- requires School Boards to establish Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC).
- establishes Special Education Tribunals to hear disputes between parent/guardians and School Boards regarding the identification and placement of exceptional pupils.
- establishes a Provincial Advisory Council on Special Education to advise the Minister of Education on matters related to Special Education Programs and Services.
- operates Provincial and Demonstration Schools for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind, or who have severe learning disabilities.

Grand Erie District School Board

- establishes School Board Policy and Practices that comply with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda.
- monitors school compliance with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda.
- requires staff to comply with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda.
- provides appropriately qualified staff to provide programs and services for the exceptional pupils of the Board.
- obtains the appropriate funding and reports on the expenditures for Special Education.
- develops and maintains a Special Education Plan that is amended from time to time to meet the current needs of the exceptional pupils of the Board.
- reviews the Plan annually in accordance with Regulation 306.

Grand Erie District School Board Contd...

- Every two years prepares and approves a report on the special education programs and special education services provided by the board and submits it to the Ministry of Education.
- provides statistical reports to the Ministry as required and as requested.
- prepares a parent/guardian guide to provide information about Special Education programs, services, and procedures.
- establishes one or more IPRC's to identify exceptional pupils and determine appropriate placements for them.
- establishes a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).
- provides professional development to Special Education staff.

The Special Education Advisory Committee:

- makes recommendations to the Board with respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of Special Education Programs and Services for exceptional pupils of the Board.
- participates in the Board's annual review of its Special Education Plan.
- participates in the Board's annual budget process as it relates to Special Education.
- reviews the financial statements of the Board as they relate to Special Education.
- provides information to parents/guardians, as requested.

The School Principal:

- carries out duties as outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and policy/ program memoranda, and through Board policies.
- communicates Ministry of Education and School Board expectations to staff.
- ensures that appropriately qualified staff are assigned to teach Special Education classes.
- communicates Board Policies and Procedures about Special Education to staff, students, and parent/guardians.
- ensures that the identification and placement of exceptional pupils, through an IPRC, is done according to the procedures outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and Board policies.
- consults with the parent/guardian and with School Board staff to determine the most appropriate program for exceptional pupils.
- ensures the development, implementation, and review of a student's IEP, including a transition plan, according to provincial requirements.
- ensures that the parent/guardian is consulted in the development of their child's IEP and that they are provided with a copy of the IEP.
- ensures the delivery of the program as set out in the IEP.
- ensures that appropriate assessments are requested, if necessary, and that parent/guardian consent is obtained.

The Teacher:

- carries out duties as outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and policy/ program memoranda.
- follows Board Policies and Procedures regarding Special Education.
- maintains up-to-date knowledge of Special Education practices.

- works with Special Education staff and the parent/guardian to develop the IEP for an exceptional pupil.
- provides the program for the exceptional pupil in the regular class, as outlined in the IEP.

The Teacher Contd...

- communicates the student's progress to the parent/guardian.
- in consultation with the parent/guardian, works with other School Board staff to review and update the student's IEP.

The Special Education Teacher

In addition to the responsibilities listed above under "The Teacher":

- holds qualifications, in accordance with Regulation 298, to teach Special Education.
- monitors the student's progress with reference to the IEP and modifies the program as necessary, in collaboration with the classroom teacher.
- assists in providing educational assessments for exceptional pupils.

The Parent/Guardian:

- becomes familiar with and informed about Board Policies and Procedures in areas that affect their child.
- participates in IPRC's, parent/guardian-teacher conferences, and other relevant school activities.
- participates in the development of the IEP.
- becomes acquainted with the school staff working with the student.
- supports the student at home.
- works with the School Principal and teachers to solve problems.
- is responsible for the student's attendance at school.

The student:

- complies with the requirements as outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda.
- complies with Board Policies and Procedures.
- participates in the IPRC, the parent/guardian-teacher conferences, and other activities, as appropriate.

Standard 4: EARLY IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's early identification procedures and intervention strategies to the ministry and the public.

Grand Erie strongly supports an early identification and intervention process for students with special education needs. For students in kindergarten or the early primary grades, early identification usually refers to the recognition of particular strengths, abilities, and needs, rather than a formal identification process through an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC), although identification can happen at any age. Early identification and intervention includes assessment, monitoring, instruction, intervention, and community support as needed. Many of the early identification steps will be taken for all students – some specific interventions will be required for individual students as learning needs are noted. The purpose of early identification is to determine each child's strengths and learning needs. Movement toward an IPRC and formal identification is dependent upon sufficient time at school to first track the success/lack of success with attempted interventions and determine if an educational identification is required.

Grand Erie complies with the *Ministry Policy/Program Memorandum #11 (1982)* which states: These procedures are part of a continuous assessment and program planning process which should be initiated when a child is first enrolled in school or no later than the beginning of a program of studies immediately following Kindergarten and should continue, ongoing, throughout a child's school life for students at all ability levels.

Guiding Principles that are critical to the success of the entry-to-school planning process:

- A Focus on the Whole Child and the Family
- Collaboration
- Sensitivity to Diversity
- Clear Definitions
- Responsiveness (Planning Entry to School: A Resource Guide Ministry of Education 2005)

The Role of the Educator Team (teacher and designated early child educator)	The Role of the Parent/Guardian
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To lead a Spring Information session for the parents/guardians of children who will enter Kindergarten in the Fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To attend a Spring Information session for the child who will enter Kindergarten in the Fall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To invite children to participate in a Spring orientation visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To ensure the child participates in a Spring orientation visit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To attend an information sharing case conference with parents and community partners in late Spring, as needed ■ To review and store community agency reports highlighting student strengths and needs, if one is shared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To attend an information sharing case conference if requested

The Role of the Educator Team (teacher and designated early child educator)	The Role of the Parent/Guardian
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To collect significant information that will help the educator team get to know and understand the child ■ To listen to the parent/guardian share information about their child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To provide information that will help the teacher get to know the child, which may include permission for the release of information from outside community agencies

The Role of the Educator Team (cont.) (teacher and designated early child educator)	The Role of the Parent/Guardian (cont.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To provide the parent/guardian with the Kindergarten Home Connection Form (Appendix D) for completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To complete the Kindergarten Home Connection Form (Appendix D)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To monitor student development, learning abilities, and needs while collecting evidence of learning over time to demonstrate achievement of expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To dialogue with the teacher on student development, learning abilities, and needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To “provide parents with an overview of initial observations of their child’s learning in relation to the overall expectations in the Kindergarten Program with information about appropriate next steps to further the child’s learning” (Growing Success, Kindergarten Addendum, pg. 12) ■ To send home a Kindergarten Communication of Learning: Initial Observations mid to late November followed by parent visits where they can observe and share information ■ To complete a written anecdotal Kindergarten Communication of Learning and provide it in February and June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To attend the structured parent/guardian observations visit and parent interviews/student-led conferences focused on the child’s portfolio (November-December) ■ To read the Kindergarten Communication of Learning, providing follow-up where needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To implement strategies of intervention and work with all support personnel as needed to address observed needs of the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To dialogue with the teacher on student development, learning abilities, and needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To communicate with parents any concerns as they arise, with suggestions about appropriate resources and personnel for support as needed ■ Refer to School Team observed needs of the child for speech and language, cognitive and behavioural assessments, occupational, and/or physiotherapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To be regularly involved in decisions about the education of their child ■ To access available community agencies that can assist with their child’s growth and development

PLEASE NOTE: If a child enters school for the first time in Grade 1 or later, and the teacher has a concern about the child's progress, the parent/guardian should be informed, and the teacher utilizes strategies to resolve the concern. If concern remains refer to School Team Process.

(Appendix B) Parents play an important role in their children's learning. Studies show that children perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education. By becoming familiar with the Kindergarten program, parents can better appreciate the value of play-based learning and learn about the attitudes, skills, and strategies that their children are developing. This awareness will enhance parents' ability to discuss their children's learning with them, to communicate with educators, and to ask relevant questions about their children's development. Knowledge of the program will also help parents understand their children's growth in learning and will enhance their ability to work with educators to improve their children's learning and development. (The Kindergarten Program 2016.)

Early and Ongoing Identification and Intervention Process for Referring a Student for an Assessment

Classroom Teacher's first steps:

- Complete an OSR search – Complete a Student Profile documenting background and attempted strategies
- Inform parent about any concerns regarding child's progress
- Attempt remedial strategies (Class Act, Sound Bites, Lexia, etc.)
- Consult with previous classroom teachers, LRT, administrator and parent/guardian
- Provide on-going assessment within the classroom: work samples, portfolios, teacher-made tests, running records, observations, Brigance, DRA, Benchmark Reading Assessment, Kindergarten Cumulative Assessment Portfolio (KSCAP)

The parent/guardian will be informed of the School Team process and opportunities to be involved. (Appendix B). With verbal parental consent, the School Team (classroom teacher, LRT, administrator, Child and Youth Worker) meet to discuss student's strengths and needs, while determining next steps. Parent/guardian will be informed of the next steps and recommendations from the School Team. School Team process may be repeated if concern is unresolved.

School Team determines that appropriate strategies are in place. The teacher will inform parents about the results of the meeting and will continue to monitor progress in the classroom.

School Team recommends additional strategies and determines that on-going monitoring is required. The teacher will inform parents about the results of the meeting. The School Team may reconvene at a later date to further discuss next steps.

School Team determines that further assessment and intervention is required. A timeline for the next steps is established, with follow up plan. Inform parents/guardians of next steps for consent.

Possible next steps may include, some or all of these assessments, with informed and/or written consent from the parent/guardian;

- LRT may complete an Academic Achievement Battery (AAB), or another educational assessment to provide recommendations and strategies to be implemented by school personnel
- A referral to the family physician may be suggested to identify physiological factors interfering with learning.
- Parents may wish to undertake private assessments (eg. psychologist, speech).

When all in-school supports have been exhausted, the parent/guardian is informed that their child is being referred to the Resource Team, with parent/guardian consent. Upon referral to the Resource Team (see Appendix B), additional assessments may be required or advisable.

Possible next steps from the Resource Team may occur, with informed and/or written consent from the parent/guardian;

- Make recommendations for programs or services and establish a date to review progress
- A Psycho-Educational assessment by qualified personnel
- Professionals such as Occupational or Physical therapy
- Psychologist or Speech Language Pathologist may complete an assessment and share recommendations for programming, resources or services.

The student may be referred to an IPRC (see Appendix E), depending on the recommendations of the Resource Team and discussions with the parent/guardian. Parents may also request an IPRC independently. Continued assessment may be required.

Procedures used within Grand Erie DSB for referring a student for an assessment

- At various steps in the School Team Process, a variety of assessments, from informal to formal, requiring increased expertise in specific forms of testing may be necessary. The following may be the hierarchy of assessments a student could require, to determine programs and services that will meet his/her educational needs. At each level (other than regular classroom methods), the parent/guardian must give written consent and be informed of the outcome of the assessment.
- Assessment of a student begins with the teacher in the classroom using a variety of methods on a regular basis (such as work samples, portfolios, teacher-made tests, observations, checklists, Brigance, DRA (Diagnostic Reading Assessment), BAS (Benchmark Assessment System) to evaluate student progress.
- If the classroom teacher notices that a child is experiencing difficulty during the course of ongoing assessment which could affect his/her ability to meet the curriculum, the parent/guardian that further testing by the School's LRT may be necessary. The teacher will discuss the School Team Process with the parent/guardian.
- With informed, written parent/guardian consent, the LRT may administer the Academic Achievement Battery (AAB), or any other educational assessment. The parent/guardian, classroom teacher and LRT will discuss the results of the assessment along with recommendations or strategies to be implemented by school personnel and the parent/guardian.
- Upon referral to the School Resource Team, a psycho-educational assessment by qualified personnel may be recommended to the parent/guardian for the child. This form of assessment may include tests of intellectual abilities, perceptual development and/or academic achievement. The parent/guardian and school personnel will be informed of the results of the assessment and recommendations.
- Results of the assessment and recommendations from the support personnel will be implemented by the classroom teacher.
- A referral to the family physician may be suggested to identify any physiological factors, which may interfere with learning.
- The child may be referred to an IPRC depending on the recommendations of the Resource Team and discussions with the parent/guardian. Further assessment by a speech-language pathologist, psychologist or outside agencies or health care

Grand Erie DSB personnel use the following types of assessment:

<p>Educational Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These assessments are made for learning, as learning, and of learning (Learning For All, 2013). They identify strengths and weaknesses. Recommendations and/or strategies will be a component. 	<p>Psycho-educational Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A psycho-educational assessment may include tests of intellectual abilities, perceptual development and/or academic achievement. These tests are conducted by a Psycho- educational Consultant or Psychological Associate who are qualified to administer such tests. Psycho- educational Consultants are supervised by Psychological Associates.
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<p>Test of Intellectual Abilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are tests that measure an individual's ability levels at a given point in time. The results of these tests are used by teachers to help students reach their maximum functioning level by identifying their strengths and weaknesses. 	<p>Tests of Perceptual Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are tests and/or observations that may indicate strengths/weaknesses with the processing of visual and/or auditory information.
<p>Tests of Academic Achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are standardized tests which measure an individual's performance on reading, spelling and mathematics tasks. 	<p>Functional Behaviour Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A process that identifies target behaviour, and behaviour function, to understand what maintains behaviour. This leads to intervention plans to teach alternative behaviours and social skills. <p>Behavioural Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These assessments measure a child's adjustment to social situations. They are conducted by qualified personnel and may involve observations or checklists.

Speech-Language Assessments

- Speech-Language Assessments may include tests of articulation, voice, stuttering and receptive and expressive language. These tests are conducted by Speech-Language Pathologists.

Speech: These tests may involve the following:

- assessment of the child's ability to produce speech sounds and control the muscles and oral structures required for speech
- assessment of vocal quality, pitch, loudness and resonance
- assessment of stuttering.

Language: These tests may involve the following:

- assessment of the child's understanding of oral language
- assessment of the child's ability to orally express himself/herself
- assessment of a child's needs for additional communication support.

After the Assessment

- Recommendations may be made for further assessment by other board personnel, outside agencies, or health care. The Resource Team will provide the parent/guardian with an explanation of the need for further assessment. For the School Board to release or receive information, including assessments from outside agencies, the parent/guardian must provide written authorization for the exchange of information (Appendix I - Consent for Disclosure and Collection of Information).
- The child may be referred to an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) meeting depending on the recommendations of the Resource Team and discussions with the parent/guardian.
- Once a child is referred to IPRC and determined to be exceptional, the recommended program will be implemented by the classroom teacher
- The parent/guardian will continue to be informed of his/her progress through consultation in the development and review of the IEP at each reporting period. In addition, the parent/guardian will receive confirmation of their child's progress at the annual IPRC.

Procedures for Providing Parent/Guardians with Notice that their Child is Being Considered for Referral to an IPRC

- Students who have behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical, or multiple exceptionalities, may have educational needs that cannot be met through regular instructional and assessment practices. These needs may be met through accommodations, and/or an educational program that is modified below the age-appropriate grade level expectations for a particular subject or course. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced.html Needs may also be best met through alternative expectations that are developed to help students acquire knowledge and skills that are not represented in the Ontario Curriculum and can include skills areas like gross motor and life skills.
- Through ongoing involvement in the School Team Process, the parent/guardian will be aware of his/her child's strengths and needs. When recommending a referral to IPRC, the Resource Team will examine information from a variety of sources regarding the student to see if it matches Ministry definitions and Board criteria.
- The parent/guardian will be informed by the School Principal of the Resource Team's decision to refer the child to IPRC. Along with the Letter of Invitation to the IPRC, the parent/guardian will receive a copy of the *Parents' Guide to Special Education* and any information that will be presented at the meeting (Appendix E)
- Parents may also request and initiate a referral to the IPRC. According to Ontario Regulation 181/98, "Identification and Placement of Exceptional Pupils", once a child has been enrolled in school, parents have the right to request that the principal refer their child to an IPRC. The principal must refer the student to an IPRC upon receiving a written request from the parent.

Procedures for Providing Parent/Guardians with Notice that their Child is Being Considered for a Special Education Program and Related Services if the Child is Not Being Referred to IPRC

- All students who receive Special Education Programs and/or Services in Grand Erie may not be formally identified as exceptional. This philosophy blends with the following statement from Special Education in Ontario, Kindergarten to Grade 12: The Individual Education Plan, Ministry of Education 2017
 - An IEP may be developed for a student who has not been identified by an IPRC as exceptional, but who has been deemed by the board to require a special education program or services in order to attend school or to achieve curriculum expectations and/or to demonstrate learning.
 - In addition, School LRT's may work with non-identified students in the regular classroom to help them achieve the curriculum expectations. The majority of the LRT's role is to support the classroom teacher to program for and implement learning experiences for students in their classrooms, not withdrawal of students.
 - This type of support is seen as a preventative measure, allowing students to overcome difficulties and be successful in the school environment.

For the types of early intervention strategies that are used to support students prior to referral to IPRC, refer to **Accommodations** (Standard 9).

Early Intervention Supports for Students Prior to IPRC

The following agencies can be contacted for assistance determining best available supports in the community:

Contact Brant	519-758-8228	www.contactbrant.net
Haldimand Norfolk REACH	519-587-2441 or 1-800-265-8087	www.hnreach.on.ca
Lansdowne Children's Centre	519-753-3153	www.lansdownecentre.ca

In May 2007, the Ministry of Education issued PPM 140: Incorporating Methods of Applied Behaviour Analysis into Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, which provides direction to school boards and supports their use of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) as an effective instructional approach in the education of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

PPM 140 outlines ABA and two requirements that must be in place for students with ASD:

- School boards must offer students with ASD special education programs and services, including, where appropriate, special education programs using ABA methods.
- School board staff must plan for the transition between various activities and settings involving students with ASD.
- Grand Erie employs Board Certified Behaviour Analysts, Behaviour Counsellors with ABA expertise and an ABA Coordinator to support the implementation of PPM 140. The ABA Coordinator supports the implementation of the Connections for Students transition process.

Connections for Students

The purpose of Connections for Students is to support students as they transition from IBI services within the Ontario Autism Program to applied behaviour analysis (ABA) instructional methods in a publicly funded school.

Connections is a multidisciplinary, student specific and school-based transition team that:

- Is comprised of the Principal, Parent/Guardian, classroom Teacher, ABA Coordinator and School Support Program ASD Consultant and other multidisciplinary staff, as required.
- Begin to meet 6 months prior to the student completing IBI services, and continue to meet monthly until 6 months after discharge from IBI services
- Aligns Individual Education Plans (IEPs), transition plans and behaviour/safety plans to support the student in acquiring, generalizing and maintaining their skills
- Support collaboration between the school board, regional autism provider and the family

Grand Erie DSB Students Involved in Connections during 2020-21 School Year

- To date, 2 students have been discharged from Connections this year and 1 student withdrew from our Board for homeschooling
- Currently, we have 4 students involved in Connections.

Standard 5: THE IPRC PROCESS AND APPEALS

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's Identification, Placement and Review Committee(s) (IPRC) process to the ministry and the public.

Statement of Purpose and Responsibility:

Regulation 181/98 requires that all school boards establish one or more Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs). The IPRC meets and decides if a student should be identified as an exceptional pupil and if so, the placement that will best meet the student's needs. An IPRC is composed of at least three persons, one of whom must be a principal or supervisory officer of the board, or a designate assigned to act in the place of the principal or supervisory officer. A school board trustee may not be on the IPRC.

Committee Composition

Grand Erie DSB uses three levels of Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs):

- School Level
- Area Level
- System Level

Level	Membership	Jurisdiction
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The principal (of the school) – Chair* ■ The LRT of the school ■ The classroom teacher or other teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ review of original identification ■ review of original "regular class" placements ■ recommendation for placement in a Demonstration School for a student who is already identified as exceptional
Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ one principal (from the area) - Chair** ■ another principal or Vice-Principal (or designate) ■ a Teacher Consultant-Special Education (for the area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ original identification ■ original "regular class" placements ■ placements in area special classes ■ review of placements in area special classes ■ original identification and placement of complex cases
System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Superintendent, Principal-Leader of Special Education or designate – Chair*** ■ The Program Coordinator for Special Education ■ a Teacher Consultant-Special Education (for the area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ original identification and placement of complex cases ■ placement of students in system special classes ■ review of placements in system special classes ■ referral to Provincial Schools

* The chair of the school level IPRC is the principal of the home school. If the principal is unable to attend, a principal from another school and/or a supervisory officer must attend, as a vice-principal cannot be the sole principal representative on an IPRC.

** The chair of the Area level IPRC is a principal other than the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled.

*** The chair of the system level IPRC is Superintendent, Principal-Leader Special Education or designate.

In addition to the three people that constitute an IPRC, other people may attend an IPRC meeting, including the principal of the home school, resource people, such as the student's teacher or board support staff, a parent/guardian or the student (if over 16 years of age) and/or a parent representative. The parent/guardian and, where the pupil is over 16, the pupil, are entitled to be present and participate in the discussions about the pupil and to be present when the committee's identification and placement decisions are made.

Committee Operating Procedures and Scope

The Scope for each level of IPRC is, as follows:

1. School level IPRCs review an original identification and review an original placement if the placement was "regular class". A School level IPRC may also recommend placement of a student who is already identified as an exceptional student with a Learning Disability at a Demonstration School.
 2. Area level IPRCs determine the original identification of a student. They also determine the original "regular class" placements and placements in area special classes. Area IPRCs also review placement in area special classes. In addition, they will determine the original identification and placement of complex cases.
 3. System level IPRCs determine the placement of students in system special classes. They also review placements in system special classes. System level IPRCs also make referrals to Provincial schools and determine original identification and placement of complex cases.
- Principals may, upon written notification to the parent/guardian, and must, at the written request of the parent/guardian, refer a student to an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).
 - Identifications are made in accordance with Ministry policy and regulations. In order to be identified as an "exceptional pupil" a student must meet the criteria for the exceptionality and, in most circumstances, must require modifications of program.
 - School level IPRCs have one option for placement – regular class.
 - Area level and System level IPRCs have two options for placement – regular class or special class.
 - Discussions about a student's Individual Educational plan, and other program options, may occur at a meeting of the IPRC. This discussion should include a description of the student's strengths and needs. The decision-making of the IPRC is restricted to the student's identification and placement and includes identifying the next date for a review.
 - Notification to parents/guardians and other parties about the date, time, and location of the IPRC is the responsibility of the principal of the home school and must be provided 10 days in advance of the IPRC.
 - Minutes of the IPRC will be completed by the Chair and will include a checklist indicating the decision about identification and placement. Minutes must be filed at the school in the Ontario Student Record (OSR).
 - Communication of IPRC decisions to parents/guardians and to area/central files should occur as follows:
 - School Level IPRC – the home school principal communicates in writing to the parent/guardian
 - Area Level IPRC – the principal who chaired the IPRC communicates in writing to parent/guardian, and to schools
 - System Level IPRC – Principal-Leader Special Education or designate communicates in writing to parent/guardian, and to schools.

Role of the Board

The Grand Erie District School board shall establish one or more committees for the Identification and Placement of exceptional students, determine the jurisdiction of each committee and establish the manner in of selecting the chair of the committee. The board shall direct administration to select individuals who meet the requirements of the members set out by the board.

The Board shall appoint three or more persons to each committee that it establishes. The board shall appoint as one of the members of each committee:

- a principal employed by the board
- a Supervisory Officer employed by the board

The Board shall direct administration to ensure that individual membership on each IPRC meets the requirements as set out by the board.

The Board shall prepare a guide (A Parent/Guardian Guide to Special Education) for the use and information of parents/guardians and pupils that provides information concerning:

- the function of the IPRC and the IPRC review
- the procedure for identifying a student as exceptional and for deciding the student's placement
- the IPRC's duty to describe the strengths and needs of the student
- the IPRC's duty to include the student's exceptionality and the category and definition of that exceptionality in its statement of decision
- the function of a special education appeal board and the parent's/guardian's right to appeal the decision of the IPRC to such a board
- the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Provincial and Demonstration schools
- whether and to what extent the school board purchases special education programs from another school board
- a list of local organizations eligible to be on a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- the information that an IPRC placement decision cannot be implemented unless a parent/guardian has consented to the decision or has not filed a notice of appeal within the required time limit.

At least once per year, all parents/guardians shall be informed by means of an item in the school newsletter, or by other appropriate means, of the availability of the Parent's/Guardian's Guide to the IPRC process. At the same time, parents/guardians shall also be informed of their right to request that their child be referred for an IPRC review. A copy of the **Identification Placement and Review Committee** document (Appendix D) and **Individual Education Plan** document are shared with parents (Appendix E).

The Board shall ensure that copies of the guide are available at each school in the Board's jurisdiction and at the Board's head office and shall provide a copy to the appropriate district office of the Ministry.

Number of IPRC referrals for the school year 2021-22: 171

Number of IPRC reviews for the school year: 2021-22:1632

Number of IPRC appeals for the school year: 2021-22: 0

Standard 6: EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the board's assessment policies and procedures to the ministry and to make parents aware of the types of assessment tools used by the school board, the ways in which assessments are obtained by IPRCs, and the ways in which assessments are used.

Types of Assessments

Assessments are intended to assist the student by providing staff with insights into the student's strengths, needs and learning profile. Three types of assessments are conducted by personnel within Grand Erie: Educational, Psycho-educational, and Speech and Language.

Educational assessments are limited to achievement testing of individual students both by formal and informal means. Responsibility for training of staff to use these assessment tools is assumed by the Program/Student Success Team if the assessment is to be administered by classroom teachers to inform program delivery for all students and by the Special Education team when more in depth assessment to be administered by the Learning Resource Teacher is needed for a specific student. Formal measures include (but may not be limited to):

For Classroom Teachers:

Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) – Primary Benchmark Assessment System – Primary & Junior Ontario Comprehension Assessment (OCA)

Groupe Beauchemin (GB+) – French Immersion

For Learning Resource Teachers:

Academic Achievement Battery (AAB) Brigance Tests of Basic Skills Brigance Early Development Scale

The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT 7) is administered in grade 3. It is used as a tool to help classroom teachers better understand the learning profile of their Grade 3 students and to inform program development for all students based on their profile of learning strengths and needs. This assessment tool may also assist to flag students who may be in need of further assessment to understand their learning needs, and as a screening tool to inform whether an individual student may require additional supports in the area of Enriched or Gifted Learning.

Psychological measures are used by Psychological Associates and Psycho-Educational Consultants. All are administered individually to students after informed consent from parents/guardians has been obtained. They can be subdivided into various types. Among the most frequently used tests are the following:

(a) Global Cognitive/Intellectual measures:

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fifth Edition (WISC V) (Canadian norms) Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV) (Canadian norms)

Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence – Fourth Edition (WPPSI-IV) (Canadian norms) Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale – Fifth Edition (SB5)

Wechsler Nonverbal Scale of Ability (Canadian norms) Ravens 2 Progressive Matrices

(b) Academic Achievement Measures

Kaufman Test of Individual Achievement – Third Edition (Canadian norms) Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third Edition (Canadian norms)

(c) Processing and Specific Skills Tests:

- Bender Visual-Motor Gestalt Test – Second Edition
- Beery Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration – Sixth Edition (VMI-6) Beery VMI Developmental Test of Visual Perception – Sixth Edition
- Beery VMI Developmental Test of Motor Coordination – Sixth Edition California Verbal Learning Test – Children (CVLT-C)
- Children's Colour Trails Test
- Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing – Second Edition (CTOPP-2) Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (DKEFS)
- NEPSY-A Developmental Neuropsychological Assessment – Second Edition Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test: Fifth Edition (Forms A & B) (PPVT)
- Process Assessment of Learning – Second Edition (Language and Math) (PAL-II) Rey Complex Figure Test (RCFT)
- Test of Memory and Learning – Second Edition (TOMAL-2)

(d) Surveys and Checklists:

- Adaptive Behaviour Assessment System – Third Edition (various forms) (ABAS-3) Beck Depression Inventory – Second Edition (BDI-2)
- Behaviour Assessment Scale for Children – Third Edition (various forms) (BASC-III) Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function – Second Edition (BRIEF2) Brown Executive Function/Attention Scales (various forms)
- Childhood Autism Rating Scale – Second Edition (CARS-2) Gillam Autism Rating Scale – Second Edition (GARS-2)
- Multi-dimensional Anxiety Scale for Children: Second Edition (MASC-II) Piers-Harris Children's Self-Concept Scale – Second Edition

Speech-Language assessments are completed by Speech-Language Pathologists. Formal measures used to evaluate speech (articulation/phonology, fluency, resonance, voice) and oral language (receptive and expressive, vocabulary, phonological awareness, social/pragmatic language) include:

(a) Speech/Phonological Processes:

- Fletcher Time-By-Count Test of Diadochokinetic Syllable Rate Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation – 3 (GFTA-3)
- Kaufman Speech Praxis Test (KSPT)
- Structured Photographic Test of Articulation –D: III (SPAT-D:3)
- Stuttering Severity Instrument – 4

(b) Language:

- Bankson Language Test – 2 Screen (BLT-2S)
- Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals – Fifth Edition (CELF-5) Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals – Primary (Third Edition) Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals, Fifth Edition Metalinguistics Expressive One Word Picture Vocabulary Test - 3
- Language Processing Test – 3 (LPT-3)
- Montgomery Assessment of Vocabulary Acquisition (MAVA) Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test – Fifth Edition (Forms A & B) Preschool Language Scale – 5 (PLS-5)
- Rapid Automatized Naming/Rapid Alternating Stimulus Tests (RAN/RAS) Social Language Development Test – Elementary (SLDT-E NU) Structured Photographic Expressive Language Test – 3 (SPELT-3)
- Structured Photographic Expressive Language Test – Preschool Second Edition (SPELT-P2) Test of Aided Communication Symbol Performance (TASP)
- Test of Narrative Language - 2 (TNL-2)
- Test of Problem Solving – Third Edition (TOPS-3) Test of Problem Solving 2 - Adolescents
- Test of Word Finding – 3 (TWF-3)
- The Listening Comprehension Test – 2 (LCT-2) The Word Test – 3: Elementary
- The Word Test – 3: Adolescent
- Wiig Test of Basic Concepts (WABC)

(c) Phonological/Phonemic Awareness

Emerging Literacy Language Assessment (ELLA)

Pre-Reading Inventory of Phonological Awareness (PIPA) Profile of Phonological Awareness (PROPA)

(d) Motor Speech

Dynamic Evaluation of Motor Speech Skills (DEMSS) Informal Tool for Early Motor Speech (ITEMS)

Qualifications of Staff

Educational assessments are conducted by teachers who are governed by the Education Act, and regulated by the College of Teachers (www.oct.ca)

Psychological *et al.* assessments are administered by psychologists, psychological associates and psycho-educational consultants. Psychologists/psychological associates and those they supervise are governed by the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991. Only psychologists/psychological associates provide and communicate diagnoses. Psychologists and Psychological Associates are members of the College of Psychologists of Ontario (www.cpo.on.ca).

Speech-Language assessments are administered by Speech-Language Pathologists who are also governed by the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 and belong to the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario (www.caslpo.com).

Referrals Management and Wait Times

Individual assessments are completed to support educational program planning. Referrals for assessment are considered and prioritized through the Resource Team process. Meetings are held at least every six weeks with an agenda determined by the School Team which has already accessed expertise within the school building including a review of classroom-based assessment information, standardized educational assessment (AAB), participation in intensive early literacy intervention programs if appropriate, and the thorough implementation of Tier 1 strategies. Resource Team (RT) discussion includes programming to support educational (academic and well-being) needs based on available information, and recommendations for medical assessment such as hearing/vision if required. If a referral for further assessment is not deemed to be necessary at the time of the Resource Team meeting but careful monitoring of progress to reconsider this decision in the future is, an intervention plan and timelines to bring back to the RT are developed and left with the School Team for implementation. Prioritizing of referrals takes into account:

- severity of needs
- request for outside agency involvement
- school setting of priorities
- school referral patterns relative to the severity of needs across the district

Referrals for assessment are logged centrally using the Learner Intervention for Tracking Excellence (LITE) process.

Wait times for psycho-educational assessments are generally 1 – 6 months. This reflects the time between the date a referral is made in LITE after a Resource Team meeting to the date of the parent/guardian meeting when the written report of assessment findings and recommendations is shared.

Wait times for speech-language assessments range from 1 to 13 months. In addition to Resource Team referrals, Communication Services staff meet with Kindergarten Educator Teams during the first 6 weeks of school to help determine children most in need of specialized support. Using a tiered intervention framework, the service delivery approach is developed based on student and school needs. For example, some schools might receive a block or even several blocks of service while others, based on comparative need, might not receive any blocks of direct intervention, but will have service delivered in a less intensive approach (i.e., Home Programming, classroom strategies to develop skills). All Kindergarten Educator Teams receive speech-language services support, to implement the Sound Bites Phonological Awareness Program (<https://sway.office.com/sl2G1zX3yBWx5cG6>).

All direct interventions with students are conducted only with written parent/guardian consent which typically includes individual discussions with the parent/guardian to ensure that the consent is informed and voluntary. Limits of confidentiality, privacy of information, likely use of the assessment information, and distribution of the report are also discussed. Students 18 years of age or older, provide their own consent.

Results of individual Educational/Psycho-educational/Speech-Language assessments are communicated through a meeting or telephone call with the parent/guardian and a written copy of the assessment report is provided. Meeting face-to-face so that assessment findings and recommendations can be used to collaboratively determine next steps in program planning is preferred. The COVID context has required that meetings with parents take place on the telephone or through Microsoft Teams. Student participation in these discussions is determined in consultation with their parent/guardian, taking into account developmental constraints.

Referrals Management and Wait Times Contd...

Appropriate school staff are involved when assessment results are reviewed with the parent/guardian. Reports prepared by professionals outside the Board are reviewed to determine what information provided helps delineate a student's learning needs, strengths or problems and how it can be used for the improvement of instruction within a school context and in accordance with the *Education Act*, (R.S.O. 1990, S.226(2)). Where this information differs from data collected at the school, the Resource Team will determine how best to proceed. There is no requirement that assessments or reassessments must be conducted by Board personnel (i.e., reports are "transportable"). Allocation of educational resources and educational programming decisions remain the responsibility of school/system staff.

Protection of Privacy and Consent for Sharing Information

Privacy of Information is protected under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)* and the *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)*. Assessment reports are filed in the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR) folder. The original report is housed in a confidential Psychology or Speech-Language Record which is maintained for 10 years after the date of last contact or 10 years after the child turns 18 years of age in accordance with the *Regulation Health Professions Act (RHPA)*.

Written authorization from the parent/guardian or student over 18 years of age is obtained prior to releasing reports to outside agencies.

Standard 7:

SPECIALIZED HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES IN SCHOOL SETTINGS

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's specialized health support services to the ministry and the public.

Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 81 – Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings provides direction about the delivery of services that go beyond educational services and are not part of normal preventative health programs already provided by boards of health to school children.

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 161 – Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy) in Schools must have policies and procedures in place to support students with prevalent medical conditions. For students to fully participate in the learning environment and achieve success, the Grand Erie District School Board, the Home and Community Care Support Service of Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand & Brant (HNHB), the Southwest LHIN and the Lansdowne Children's Centre who manages the School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) program share responsibility for these specialized health support services.

Further information regarding specialized health support services in Grand Erie can be found in the following documents:

- Board Policy SO8 – Community Partnerships
- Board Policy SO28 – Student Concussion and Head Injury
- Board Policy SO30 – Management of Potentially Life-Threatening Health Conditions, Including Administration of Medication, in Schools
- Board Procedure SO108 – Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together

Key abbreviations used within the document: LCC – Lansdowne Children's Centre

LHIN – Local Health Integration Network **OT** – Occupational Therapist

PT – Physiotherapist

PSL – Preschool Speech and Language **RN** – Registered Nurse

SBRS – School Based Rehabilitation Services **SHSS** – School Health Support Services

SLP – Speech and Language Pathologist

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Specialized Health Support Service	Agency or position of person who performs the service (e.g.: LHIN board, staff, parent, student)	Eligibility criteria for students to receive the service	Position of person who determines eligibility to receive the service and the level of support	Criteria for determining when the service is no longer required	Procedures for resolving disputes about eligibility and level of support (if available)
Occupational Therapy	SBRS program managed through LCC	Meets criteria for assessment established by SBRS Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment indicating if OT services are required	SBRS clinician based upon established criteria	Criteria determined by SBRS OT indicates when occupational therapy services are no longer required	Discussion with SBRS Manager.
Physiotherapy	SBRS program managed through LCC	Meets criteria for assessment established by SBRS Physiotherapy (PT) assessment indicating if PT services are required	SBRS clinician based upon established criteria	Criteria determined by SBRS PT indicates when physiotherapy services are no longer required	Discussion with SBRS Manager
Speech & Language Therapy	SBRS program managed through LCC Grand Erie Brant Haldimand Norfolk Preschool Speech and Language (BHNPSL) managed through LCC	Meets criteria for assessment established by SBRS Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) assessment indicating if SBRS Speech services are required	SBRS clinician based upon established criteria SLP based on assessment results PSL clinician based upon established criteria	Criteria determined by SBRS SLP indicates when intervention no longer required Transfer from PSL based on age and need	Discussion with SBRS Manager School Team meeting with parent/guardian and student if appropriate or required by legislation and SLP report
Nursing	LHIN (SHSS) and HHNB	Medical assessment indicating that nursing must be provided during school hours	LHIN/HHNB Care Coordinator	Medical assessment indicating nursing no longer required during school hours OR Parent/guardian assumes responsibility	School or parent/guardian can request case conference with LHIN/HHNB Care Coordinator

Specialized Health Support Service	Agency or position of person who performs the service (e.g.: LHIN, board, staff, parent, student)	Eligibility criteria for students to receive the service	Position of person who determines eligibility to receive the service and the level of support	Criteria for determining when the service is no longer required	Procedures for resolving disputes about eligibility and level of support (if available)
Administering of prescribed medications	Oral medication by school staff. G-tube and Intra- muscular medications by LHIN (SHSS)/HNHB Student (if appropriate) **Note school staff are not authorized to administer injections; therefore, requests made in relationship to school staff administering injections shall be denied	Medical Statement OR Authorization of parent/ guardian for medication to be administered at school except for administration of medicinal cannabis, which requires a Medical Statement	School Principal LHIN/HNHB Care Coordinator	Medical recommendation indicating that prescribed medication no longer needs to be administered during school hours OR Student has learned to administer medications independently	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN/HNHB Care Coordinator
Assistance with Catheterization	Student Board Staff (i.e., volunteer Educational Assistants after training by LHIN (SHSS))	Medical assessment indicating that catheterization must be done during school hours.	LHIN/HNHB Care Coordinator	Medical recommendation indicating catheterization no longer required during school hours OR Parent/guardian assumes responsibility	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN/HNHB Care Coordinator

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Specialized Health Support Service	Agency or position of person who performs the service (e.g.: LHIN, board, staff, parent, student)	Eligibility criteria for students to receive the service	Position of person who determines eligibility to receive the service and the level of support	Criteria for determining when the service is no longer required	Procedures for resolving disputes about eligibility and level of support (if available)
Suctioning	LHIN (SHSS)/HNHB	Medical Referral	LHIN/HNHB Care Coordinator	Recommendation indicating that suctioning no longer required during school hours OR Parent/guardian assumes responsibility	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN/HNHB Care Coordinator

Specialized Health Support Service	Agency or position of person who performs the service (e.g.: LHIN, board, staff, parent, student)	Eligibility criteria for students to receive the service	Position of person who determines eligibility to receive the service and the level of support	Criteria for determining when the service is no longer required	Procedures for resolving disputes about eligibility and level of support (if available)
Lifting and positioning	School staff as trained by SBRS therapist as appropriate (usually OT/PT)	Assessment by health professional indicating that lifting and positioning must be done during school hours	SBRRs Manager	Recommendation indicating that lifting and positioning no longer required during school hours OR Parent/guardian assumes responsibility	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with SBRS Manager
Assistance with mobility	School staff as trained by SBRS therapist as appropriate (usually OT/PT)	O T/PT Medical Referral	Medical Referral	Recommendation indicating that assistance with mobility no longer required during school hours	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with SBRS Manager

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				OR Parent/guardian and student assume responsibility	
Feeding	Oral - school staff G-tube - LHIN (SHSS)/HNHB	Medical Referral	Physician, Nurse	LHIN (SHSS)/HNHB: Parent directives based on physician orders	School or parent/guardian can request a case conference with LHIN/HNHB Care Coordinator
Toileting	School staff - Medical Referral training available from OT/RN		Physician, Nurse	Once school staff training is complete service may be discharged or placed on hold for future requests	Not applicable

Standard 8:

CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS OF EXCEPTIONALITIES

PURPOSE: To make information on the categories and definitions of exceptionalities available to the public, including parents and community associations.

Students will be identified as exceptional by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) when their “behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that they are considered to need placement in a special education program” (Education Act) (Special Education program implies an Individual Education Plan with modifications within the regular program or a self-contained program.)

The IPRC requires an individual educational (classroom) assessment before deciding about the identification of a student as exceptional or the placement of a student in a special education program. Educational assessments are conducted by the classroom teacher, often under the guidance of the School Team. Data from ongoing assessment *for* learning by the classroom teacher(s) and from ongoing assessment *as* learning by the student is collected to plan instruction and further assessment. Assessment *for* learning involves gathering evidence from a variety of sources to plan, adjust, and deliver instruction that meets the needs of individual students. It includes both diagnostic (i.e., review of recent report cards, consultation with previous teachers, parents, special educational teachers, classroom observations, classroom assessments) and formative (i.e., classroom tests, assignments, observations, progress towards alternate programming goals) assessment practices. Both educational (classroom) assessments and professional supporting assessments contribute to IPRC decisions. The determining factor for the provision of special education programs or services is not any specific diagnosed or undiagnosed medical condition, but rather the needs of the individual student based on an individual assessment of strengths and needs. It should be noted that when the IPRC identifies the student as exceptional and applies the ministry’s definition to describe the exceptionality, it is not diagnosing a condition but merely indicating an educational category. The IPRC identification should not be interpreted as a diagnosis.

There are five categories of exceptionality recognized in the Education Act. The Ministry has defined additional sub-categories for some of the categories.

Resources

- Policy/Program Memorandum No. 8:
- Identification of and program planning for students with learning disabilities.
- Policy/Program Memorandum No. 140:
- Incorporating methods of applied behaviour analysis (ABA) into programs for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 156:

- Supporting transitions for students with special education needs.
- Steps to Identification with an Exceptionality are outlined in the Special Education Plan: Section 2
- Allowable Accommodations are outlined in the Special Education Plan: Appendix G

Behaviour

A learning disorder characterized by specific behaviour problems over such a period of time, and to such a marked degree, and of such a nature, as to adversely affect educational performance, and that may be accompanied by one or more of the following:

- an inability to build or to maintain interpersonal relationships

- excessive fears or anxieties
- a tendency to compulsive reaction
- an inability to learn that cannot be traced to intellectual, sensory, or other health factors, or any combination thereof.

Major Indicators:

- A persistent pattern of non-compliant, defiant, physical and/or verbally aggressive behaviours observed within the school environment.
- Behaviours are frequent, intense and of such a duration that they compromise the student's learning and ability to be successful at school (for example behaviour is the reason they are not meeting their potential) and/or their behaviour is interfering with the learning of others.
- Behaviours continue despite the implementation of behaviour strategies and interventions.
- Accommodations have proven to be insufficient.

Supporting Assessment:

School Documentation demonstrates that the nature, frequency, and severity of the behaviours are disruptive to the student's learning.

- Behaviours are not secondary to other medical, neurobiological, or other developmental disorders.
- All behaviours must be looked at in the context of functional/developmental age, and culture.
- Behaviour plan is in place.
- Consultation/involvement with Behavioural system staff and other appropriate support staff has occurred.
- A psycho-educational assessment and/or speech and language assessment are recommended when school Resource Team deems appropriate.

Communication Autism

A severe learning disorder that is characterized by:

- a) disturbances in:
 - rate of educational development ability
 - to relate to the environment
 - mobility
 - perception, speech, and language
- b) lack of the representational symbolic behaviour that precedes language.

Major Indicators:

- Persistent deficits in social communications and social interactions and restricted repetitive patterns of behaviour.
- Accommodations are insufficient.
- ABA strategies, interventions and transition supports are in place and in compliance with PPM140.
- Consultation with ABA and Autism system support staff and other appropriate support staff may occur.

Supporting Assessment:

- A diagnosis by a qualified medical practitioner belonging to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario or qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario.

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

An impairment characterized by deficits in language and speech development because of a diminished or non-existent auditory response to sound.

Major Indicators:

- Student is not meeting the grade level expectations (modifications that include either a reduction in the number and/or complexity of the student's current grade level expectations or modifications to a lower grade level).
- Accommodations are insufficient.
- Up to date audiology assessment report completed by an audiologist (preferably within 1 year).
- Recent speech and language assessment has been completed.
- AAB or equivalent standardized assessment of academic achievement has been completed.

Supporting Assessment:

- Audiology Assessment completed by a registered audiologist belonging to the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario that states a specific level of hearing loss.

Language Impairment

A learning disorder characterized by an impairment in comprehension and/or the use of verbal communication or the written or other symbol system of communication, which may be associated with neurological, psychological, physical, or sensory factors, and which may:

- a) involve one or more of the form, content, and function of language in communication; and
- b) include one or more of the following:
 - language delay.
 - dysfluency.
 - voice and articulation development, which may or may not be organically or functionally based.

Major Indicators:

- Moderate to severe Receptive Language delay/impairment.
- Moderate to severe Expressive Language delay/impairment.
- Accommodations are insufficient.
- Language impairment is impacting their ability to access the curriculum.
- Remedial programming is essential.

Supporting Assessment:

- Assessment by a Speech Language Pathologist belonging to the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario
- Psycho-educational Assessment completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario.
- The student displays a moderate to severe delay in receptive and/or expressive language development, at or below the 5th percentile on standard measures that is not due to cultural or

linguistic differences.

- AAB or equivalent standardized assessment of academic achievement has been completed when deemed appropriate by the school Resource Team.

Speech Impairment

A disorder in language formulation that may be associated with neurological, psychological, physical, or sensory factors; that involves perceptual motor aspects of transmitting oral messages; and that may be characterized by impairment in articulation, rhythm, and stress.

Major Indicators:

- Difficult to understand speech that affects communication.
- The student displays a severe to profound impairment in articulation, phonology, motor speech and/or fluency that results in unintelligible (difficult to understand) speech.
- Accommodations/modifications are essential for orally expressing their knowledge and ideas.

Supporting Assessment:

- Assessment by a Speech Language Pathologist belonging to the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario.

Learning Disability

One of a number of neurodevelopmental disorders that persistently and significantly has an impact on the ability to learn and use academic and other skills and that:

- affects the ability to perceive or process verbal and non-verbal information in an effective and accurate manner in students who have assessed intellectual abilities that are *at least* in the average range.
- results in (a) academic underachievement that is inconsistent with the intellectual abilities of the student (which are at least in the average range) and/or (b) academic achievement that can be maintained by the student only with extremely high levels of effort and/or with additional support.
- results in difficulties in the development and use of skills in one or more of the following areas: reading, writing, mathematics, and work habits and learning skills.
- may typically be associated with difficulties in one or more cognitive processes, such as phonological processing; memory and attention; processing speed; perceptual-motor processing; visual-spatial processing; executive functions (e.g., self-regulation of behavior and emotions, planning, organizing of thoughts and activities, prioritizing, decision making).
- may be associated with difficulties in social interaction (e.g., difficulty in understanding social norms or the point of view of others); with various conditions or disorders, diagnosed or undiagnosed; or with other exceptionalities.
- is *not* the result of a lack of acuity in hearing, and/or vision that has not been corrected; intellectual disabilities; socio-economic factors; cultural differences; lack of proficiency in the language of instruction; lack of motivation or effort; gaps in school attendance or inadequate opportunity to benefit from instruction.

Major Indicators:

- Difficulties in the development and use of skills in one or more of the following areas:
 - reading
 - writing
 - mathematics
 - work habits/learning skills
- Accommodations insufficient for meeting student needs.
- Psycho-educational assessment indicates that academic achievement is inconsistent with the intellectual abilities of the student (which are at least in the average range) and/or achievement that is only sustainable with high level of effort and/or extensive support.

Supporting Assessment:

- Assessment reports and results are in compliance with PPM 8.
- Psycho-educational assessment completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario.
- Assessment measures are based on Canadian norms where possible, are culturally sensitive, and are provided to the student in accessible format, as required (e.g., sign language, Braille, large print).

Intellectual Giftedness

An unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular school program to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated.

Major Indicators:

- Performance scores on Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) and discussion at school Resource Team.
- Accommodations are insufficient to meet student need.

Supporting Assessment:

- CCAT results with a composite standard age score of at least 130 (98th percentile rank) which typically means 9th stanine results on two of three subtests.
- If from outside the board: Psycho-educational assessment completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario, with Canadian norms, at the 98th percentile rank or higher on a Full-Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ) or General Ability Index (GAI).
- AAB or equivalent standardized assessment of academic achievement has been completed when deemed appropriate by the school Resource Team.

Mild Intellectual Disability

A learning disorder characterized by:

- a) an ability to profit educationally within a regular class with the aid of considerable curriculum modification and supportive service.
- b) an inability to profit educationally within a regular class because of slow intellectual development.
- c) a potential for academic learning, independent social adjustment, and economic self- support.

Major Indicators:

- Student is not meeting grade expectations.
- Student requires accommodations/modifications to the pace, complexity and/or grade level expectations.

Supporting Assessment:

- Psycho-educational assessment completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario.
- Cognitive functioning that falls in the very low range.
- Not the result of impairments in vision, hearing, physical limitations, developmental disability, emotional problems, or cultural differences.

Developmental Disability

A severe learning disorder characterized by:

- a) an inability to profit from a Special Education Program for students with mild intellectual disabilities because of slow intellectual development.
- b) an ability to profit from a Special Education Program that is designed to accommodate slow intellectual development.
- c) a limited potential for academic learning, independent social adjustment, and economic self- support.

Major Indicators:

- Student is not able to meet grade level expectations.
- Student is not able to perform age-appropriate activities of daily living and personal independence without assistance.
- Accommodations are insufficient.

Supporting Assessment:

- Assessments meets the criteria of an Intellectual Disability as defined in the Diagnostic and

Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM5).

- Psycho-educational assessments completed by or under the supervision of a qualified member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario.
- Medical Assessments completed by qualified member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario may be accepted.
- Cognitive functioning that falls in the very low to extremely low range with significant delays in adaptive functioning.

Supporting Assessment Contd.:

- Assessment measures are based on Canadian norms where possible; are culturally sensitive and are provided to students in an accessible format, as required.
- Not the result of impairments in vision, hearing, physical limitations, emotional problems, or cultural differences.

PHYSICAL – Physical Disability

A condition of such severe physical limitation or deficiency as to require special assistance in learning situations to provide the opportunity for educational achievement equivalent to that of students without exceptionalities who are of the same age or developmental level.

Major Indicators:

- Physical limitation where accommodations and modifications are essential for the student to access the curriculum and/or alternate program.

Supporting Assessment:

- Diagnosis by a qualified medical practitioner belonging to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.
- Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy assessment may be required to delineate functional needs.

MULTIPLE – Blind and Low Vision

A condition of partial or total impairment of sight or vision that even with correction affects educational performance adversely.

Major Indicators:

- Accommodations are extensive.
- Accommodations have proven to be ineffective.
- Supporting Assessment:
- Diagnosed by an Ophthalmologist, certified by the Ontario College of Optometrists.

MULTIPLE – Multiple Exceptionalities

A combination of learning or other disorders, impairments, or physical disabilities, that is of such nature as to require, for educational achievement, the services of one or more teacher's holding qualifications in Special Education and the provision of support services appropriate for such disorders, impairments, or disabilities.

Criteria for identification:

- Student meets the criteria for identification in two or more exceptionalities with supporting documentation and/or assessment provided by the appropriate practitioners

The Board's IPRC applies the above categories and definitions in making decisions with respect to identification and placement by reviewing all information including assessment documentation, reporting detailed in the OSR, and anecdotal references from board personnel, parent/guardians, and agencies:

Criteria for identification Contd.:

- to develop a shared understanding of a student's current strengths, needs and learning profile.
- to compare available information with the board's IPRC decision making and assessment criteria.
- to ensure consistent interpretation and application of Ministry of Education requirements.

Standard 9:**SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENTS PROVIDED BY THE BOARD**

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of range of placements provided by the Board, and to inform the public that placement of a student in regular class is the first option considered by an Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

Grand Erie District School Board programs and services are delivered in safe and enabling environments that promote success for students with special education needs. An enabling environment is positive, inclusive, provides for full participation of all students, and fosters student independence, belonging, and well-being. Schools and special education support staff work collaboratively and respectfully with students, parents/guardians and other involved agencies. Using all available information to understand each child's unique strengths and needs, responsive instructional and assessment practices are implemented. Policies and programs in Grand Erie serve students with disabilities within the context outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Code, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and/or the AODA, 2005 and the Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession.

SEAC is consulted during the review of self-contained classes and the development of the Special Education Guiding Principles, which provides direction to the nature, and focus of congregated classes in Grand Erie. SEAC is presented with a general overview of the philosophy of types of placements available and changing needs for Self-contained program throughout the Board. They provide feedback and discussion about the philosophy and changing needs. A final copy of the Self-contained Classes and their locations is then shared with SEAC as information.

Grand Erie District School Board believes that placement in a regular class in the student's home school is the most enabling placement for all our students. It is also believed that for some students with specific exceptionalities, the most enabling placement may be a self-contained classroom setting.

Regular Class:

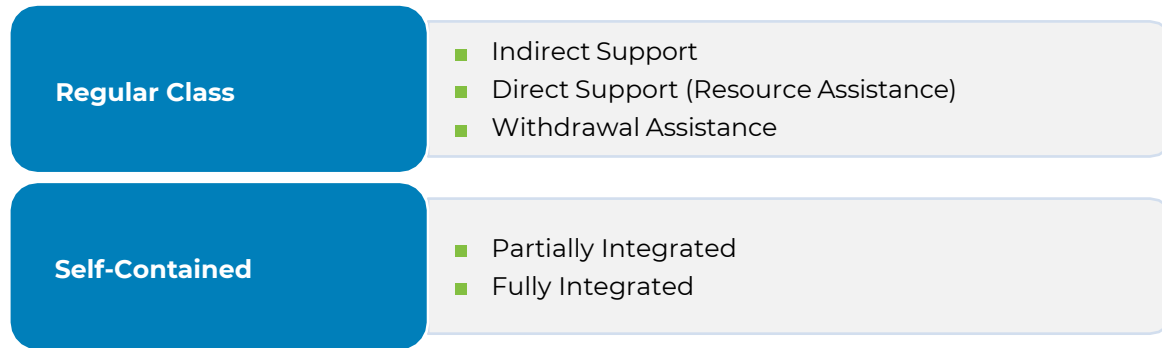
Placement in a regular class should be considered as the first option. To support the student in the regular classroom, the following practices are in place

- Universal Design for Learning, Differentiated Instruction and assessment and appropriate accommodations and modifications should be in place.
- Classroom Teachers should receive training in evidence-based strategies that improve student's learning (Learning for All: A Guide to Effective Assessment and Instruction for All Students, Kindergarten to Grade 12).
- Support from the Learning Resource Teacher should be provided to classroom teachers to build capacity and improve classroom responsive instruction.
- Educational Assistants can assist with the implementation of the programming for students with medical and safety needs.
- System special education support staff build the capacity of schools to meet the broad range of student special education needs.

When more intensive support is required for a student, self-contained placement may be considered by the board and confirmed by the IPRC.

Educational implications of participation in self-contained programs should be discussed with the parents/guardians and students (if appropriate). When a self-contained placement may be appropriate, it is a consultative process which honours the voices of parents/guardians, school staff, program support staff and the student. Integration into regular program should occur, in consultation with the parents/guardians, as it is deemed appropriate for the individual pupil by the school principal.

Types of placements provided at the elementary and secondary levels:



When being integrated into a regular class the student may receive support from an Educational Assistant. When the student's placement is a Special Education Class with Partial Integration the student must be integrated into a regular class for at least one instructional period daily. When integration does occur for a student whose placement is in a self-contained program, it does not exceed 49% of the school day.

Admission to placement will occur at the next natural break in the school calendar. The student may require support or services in the regular class placement while waiting for admission to a special class.

The level of Educational Assistant shared support for individual students is based on student needs, such as:

- safety - to self or others
- medical issues
- academic
- social /emotional
- physical
- alternative programming
- augmentative communication

An IPRC may recommend a change in a students' placement if:

- the student requires a placement that permits a greater focus on the goals and objectives of the Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- the student is meeting goals and objectives more closely approximating the expectation of the Ontario Curriculum and requires a program more focused on those goals and objectives.

When the needs of a student cannot be met within the Board's range of placements, an IPRC may support one of the following temporary or permanent placements:

- Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI)
- Education Programs in Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional Facilities
- Amethyst School (for students with ADHD and/or severe learning disabilities)
- Trillium School (for students with severe learning disabilities)
- Roberts School (for students who are deaf /hard of hearing)
- W. Ross Macdonald School (for students who are blind/deaf-blind)

Options for placement outside the Board are communicated to the parent/guardians before the IPRC through:

- case conferences.
- visit to the outside placement.

Most students identified as exceptional within Grand Erie DSB are placed in a regular class. The document that follows identifies the location of the special classes within the Board for the 2022-2023 school year.

Elementary Self-Contained 2022-2023

Life Skills	Intensive Support – Autism	Intensive Support – Multi-Handicap	Strategies	Gifted
Brantford/Brant				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cedarland ■ Centennial ■ Grand-Woodlands ■ Cobblestone ■ Ryerson Heights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Agnes Hodge ■ Graham Bell ■ Grandview ■ Greenbrier ■ James Hillier ■ Prince Charles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prince Charles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Branlyn ■ Russell Reid - Autism 	
Haldimand				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hagersville Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ JL Mitchener ■ Mapleview ■ Thompson Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hagersville Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Caledonia Centennial 	
Norfolk				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lynndale Heights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bloomsburg ■ Langton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lynndale Heights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Delhi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Boston

Secondary Self-Contained 2022-2023

Bridge	Vocational Skills	Life Skills	Intensive Support – Autism	Intensive Support – Multi- Handicap
Brantford/Brant				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Park Paris District Pauline Johnson Tollgate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Park (2) Pauline Johnson Tollgate (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paris District Pauline Johnson (3) Tollgate (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Park Tollgate (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pauline Johnson (2)
Haldimand				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cayuga Sec. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cayuga Sec. Hagersville Sec. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cayuga Sec. (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cayuga Sec. (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cayuga Sec.
Norfolk				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simcoe Comp. (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simcoe Comp. Valley Heights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simcoe Comp. (2) Waterford DHS (2) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterford DHS

Elementary

SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENTS/PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE BOARD - 2022-2023

Strategies – Capacity of 8 – Fully contained or Partial Integrated

- Support students with the development of skills related to self-regulation
- Students may be integrated into a regular class setting and may be working on modified curriculum in addition to the alternative curriculum goals.

Gifted - Capacity of 25 – Partially Integrated

- Grade 5-8
- Provides differentiated learning experiences of depth and breadth beyond the regular curriculum
- Provides opportunity for collaboration, learning and leadership with peers of similar intellectual abilities
- Programming focuses on critical and high order thinking skills, creativity, problem solving, research, technology, and metacognition
- Students exhibits exceptionally high performance beyond grade level expectations in numerous subject areas

Life Skills Class – Capacity of 10 - Fully contained

- Support students with an intellectual disability that typically falls within the moderate to severe range.
- Focus is to develop fundamental independent living skills; functional academics, communication, self-advocacy, and social skills and assisted job skills that can lead to successful community participation and adult living.
- Program goals are derived from alternative curriculum
- Working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment with limited or no integration into credit bearing courses and will not be earning credits.

Intensive Support Class – Autism – Capacity of 6 – Fully contained

- Alternative programming in these classrooms is driven by individual student need, with staff facilitating independence and life skills where possible. Students have a diagnosis of Autism which impacts their ability to participate in the credit bearing programs.
- Focus on communication and social skills with support for behaviour, safety, and sensory needs.
- Working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment

Intensive Support Class - Multi Handicap – Capacity of 6 – Fully contained

- Alternative programming in these classrooms is driven by individual student need, with staff facilitating independence and life skills, where possible.
- Focus on communication, social awareness, personal care, and motor skills development.
- Working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment

Secondary

SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENTS/PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE BOARD - 2022-2023

Bridge Class – Capacity of 16 – Partially contained

- Offered as 4 section classes
- Supports student need in literacy, numeracy, self-regulation, social skills, learning skills, self-advocacy, and mental health, while offering maximum integration with the opportunity to work towards credit.

Working toward an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) or Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) with goals of attending post-secondary programming or entering the workplace after secondary school.

Vocational Class – Capacity of 16 – Fully contained

- Offered as 8-section classes
- Students may be integrated into some credit-bearing courses, but this is considered on an individual basis; most will be working on modified curriculum and/or functional academics, job readiness skills, and skills in independence depending on their individual learning profile and post-secondary school goals.
- Working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment (COA) with goals of taking further training or entering the workplace after secondary school.

Life Skills Class – Capacity of 10 - Fully contained

- Support students with an intellectual disability that typically falls within the moderate to severe range.
- Focus is to develop fundamental independent living skills; functional academics, communication, self-advocacy, and social skills and assisted job skills that can lead to successful community participation and adult living.
- Program goals are derived from alternative curriculum
- Offered as 8-section classes.
- Working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment with limited or no integration into credit bearing courses and will not be earning credits.

Intensive Support Class – Autism – Capacity of 6 – Fully contained

- Alternative programming in these classrooms is driven by individual student need, with staff facilitating independence and life skills where possible. Students have a diagnosis of Autism which impacts their ability to participate in the credit bearing programs.
- Focus on communication and social skills with support for behaviour, safety, and sensory needs, applying the principals of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)
- Working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment

Intensive Support Class - Multi Handicap – Capacity of 6 – Fully contained

- Alternative programming in these classrooms is driven by individual student need, with staff facilitating independence and life skills, where possible.
- Focus on communication, social awareness, personal care, and motor skills development.
- Working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment

T.H.R.I.V.E. Elementary

Grand Erie offers a virtual withdrawal experience for students in grade 5-8 who demonstrate evidence of advanced cognitive advanced ability to collaborate and learn with like-minded students from across the board. In consultation with the students and parents/guardians, a student who demonstrates the need for learning with greater focus on the [Deep Learning Competencies](#) (link- [Deep Learning Competencies – 6 C's \(nbed.ca\)](#)) and opportunities to learn with other like-minded peers, an application may be made to the Special Education Program Coordinator at two times throughout the school year, once at the start of each term. These students meet with the virtual class and a teacher once per week for 90 minutes to work synchronously and asynchronously to plan, investigate, research, and share their learning. A review of how the program is meeting the goals for the student and to determine further benefits in subsequent years occurs annually.

Transferable skills
Higher order thinking skills
Research skills
Innovation and inquiry skills
Virtual
Experience

Standard 10: INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEP)

The purpose of the standard is to inform the ministry and the public about the ways in which the Board is complying with Ministry requirements for implementing IEPs.

Grand Erie strives to plan an educational program for a student with special education needs through communication among:

- School Team members
- Parents/guardians
- School board and community professionals involved with the student
- The student (where appropriate)

IEP development is a collaborative process that is usually initiated by the school, after collection of observation and assessment data that reveals some difficulty accessing the curriculum. Parents may inquire about the initiation of an IEP through their child's classroom teacher, the Learning Resource Teacher, or the school principal.

While each school has an individual process for IEP development and implementation, in general the Learning Resource Teacher coordinates the development of the IEP while the classroom teacher is responsible for decisions related to program planning. The principal monitors overall implementation.

School staff participate in consultation with parents/guardians and students at various phases in the process. Consultation may take the form of a letter requesting input, a phone call, a meeting, or other appropriate informal or formal consultation methods. An IEP information brochure called *Individual Education Plan (IEP) – A Guide for Parents* is available for schools to share with families and is found in Appendix of this document.

The IEP process follows five phases:

- Gathering information
- Setting the direction
- Developing the IEP to include the student's special education program and services
- Implementing the IEP
- Reviewing and updating the IEP

The Individual Education Plan is divided into the following sections:

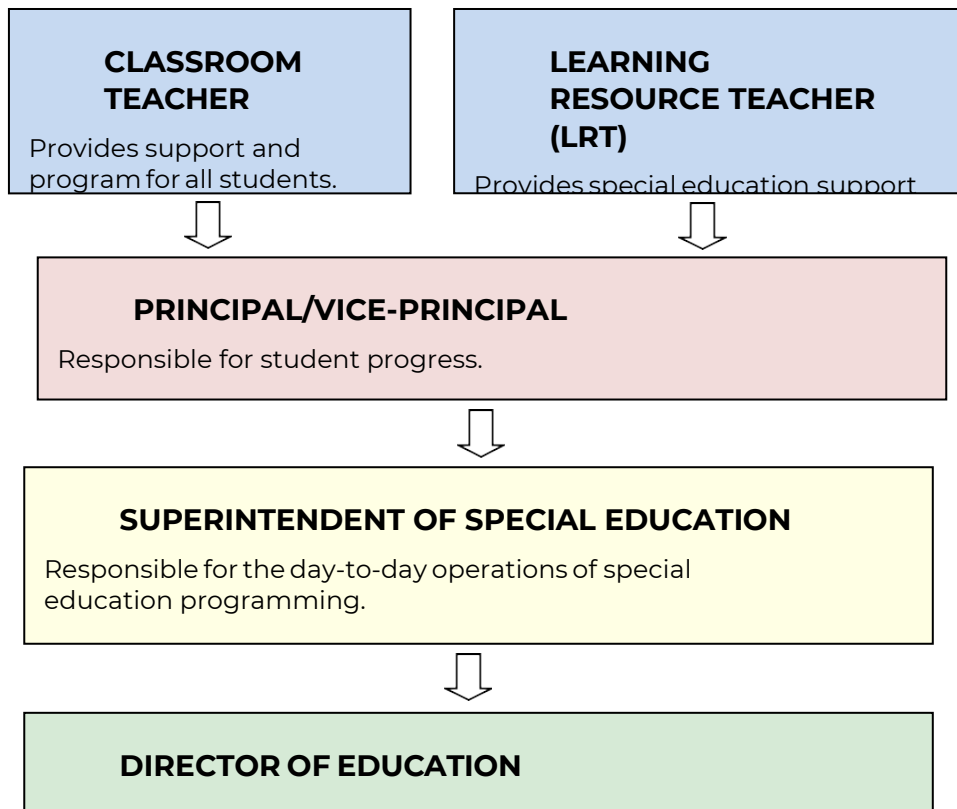
- i) Identification
 - Reason for development of the IEP
 - Placement information
 - IEP completion date
 - IEP revision date
 - Student Profile
 - Ontario Education Number (OEN)
 - Exceptionality
 - IPRC Placement Decision (as applicable)
 - IEP Development Team
 - Assessment
 - Relevant Educational & Clinical Assessment Data

- Strengths
 - Needs
 - Health Support Services
 - Accommodations
 - Instructional Accommodations
 - Environmental Accommodations
 - Assessment Accommodations
- ii) Human Resources
- iii) Equipment
- iv) Provincial Assessments
- Permitted Accommodations
 - Exemptions from Provincial Assessment
- v) Elementary Program Exemptions
- vi) Secondary compulsory course substitutions
- vii) Program Areas
- Modified Programs
 - Accommodations
 - Alternative Programs
 - Baseline Level of Achievements
 - Annual Program Goal
 - Learning Expectations, Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods
 - Teaching Strategies
 - Strengths/Areas for Improvement/Next Steps
- viii) Transition Plan
- ix) Sources consulted in the Development of the IEP
- x) Parent/Student Consultation
- xi) Staff Review & IEP Updating

A blank IEP template showing each of the above sections is found in Appendix G of this Special Education Plan.

The IEP is a working document that is adjusted to match assessment data on an ongoing basis. It is reviewed and updated at the beginning of each reporting period in response to assessment from the previous term/semester. The IEP process is cyclical and involves repeated review, evaluation, and adjustment. There should be a clear link between the learning expectations outlined in the IEP and the Progress Report and Provincial Report Card.

Collaboration between school staff and parents is essential. When parents have questions or concerns about their child's Individual Education Plan, or special education programming, these are best addressed at the school level, always beginning with the classroom teacher or learning resource teacher. If a parent feels that their question or concern has not been adequately addressed, they should then discuss the issue with the school principal. The Superintendent of Special Education is also able to assist with unresolved concerns and can be contacted at the Education Centre (519-756-6301).



Teacher Consultants for Special Education are assigned to specific schools and work directly with school staff to provide special education support. The Principal Leader for Special Education provides system support for special education programs and services. These staff are also available to assist parents with questions or concerns related to a student's Individual Education Plan. A school principal may arrange a meeting between parents, school staff, system staff, and/or the Superintendent of Special Education in order to seek a mutual understanding.

Parents may not agree with everything in an IEP, or the focus may differ from their requests. Schools are responsible for establishing a program that best suits a child's strengths and needs while at school. The school principal is ultimately responsible for the initiation, implementation, and review of the IEP and ensuring that the parent is consulted in its development. The principal is not obliged to accept every parental suggestion but must give appropriate consideration to requests. The principal should provide reasons for not including parental requests in the IEP. If parents disagree with significant aspects of the IEP, they may request a meeting with appropriate school and board staff.

If all attempts at dispute resolution related to the IEP have been unsuccessful, a parent may contact the Ministry of Education for clarification or assistance. The Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario may also assist. The Ontario Ombudsman oversees all aspects of public education in Ontario and can help with unresolved complaints or investigate systemic issues. Parents can fill out an online complaint form with the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario, call 1-800-263-1830, or email for assistance at info@ombudsman.on.ca.

Standard 11:

PROVINCIAL AND DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO

The purpose of the standard is to provide the public with information about the Provincial and Demonstration Schools that are operated for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind, or who have severe learning disabilities, which may include attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The Ministry of Education operates provincial and demonstration schools throughout Ontario to provide education for students who are deaf, blind, deaf-blind or have severe learning disabilities, including those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Residential programs are available Monday to Friday to students who live too far away to travel daily. Admittance to a Provincial School is determined by the Provincial Schools Admission Committee in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 296. Transportation is provided for students, to and from Provincial and Demonstration Schools.

Other resource supports include:

- Preschool services for deaf, blind, and deaf-blind children is available during home visiting services.
- Learning materials and media for
- students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind
- Professional learning opportunities for board staff
- Vision – Orientation and Mobility supports

School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind
W. Ross Macdonald School 350 Brant Avenue Brantford, Ontario N3T 3J9 Phone (519) 759-0730

Schools for the Deaf		
Sir James Whitney School 350 Dundas Street West Bellville, Ontario K8P 1B2 (613) 957-2823	Ernst C. Dury School 255 Ontario Street South Milton, Ontario L9T 2M5 (905) 878-2851	Robarts School 1090 Highbury Avenue London, Ontario N5Y 4V9 (519) 453-4400

School for the Deaf, Blind, Deaf-Blind and students with Learning Disabilities (French)
Centre Jules-Leger 281 Avenue Lanark Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 6R8 (613) 761-9300

Demonstration Schools for students with severe Learning Disabilities and possibly ADHD		
Amethyst School 1090 Highbury Avenue London, Ontario N5Y 4V9 (519) 453-4408	Sagonaska School 350 Dundas Street West Belleville, Ontario K8P 1B2 (613) 967-2830	Trillium School 347 Ontario Street South Milton, Ontario L9T 3X9 (905) 878-8428

The following are current statistics (for the school year 2021-22) with respect to the number of qualified resident students attending Provincial Schools and Provincial Demonstration Schools:

W. Ross Macdonald School	24
Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf	7
Robarts School for the Deaf	0
Amethyst Demonstration School	1
Trillium Demonstration School	2

Standard 12: SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF

The purpose of the standard is to provide specific details on board staff to the ministry and the public.

Special Education Staff	ELEM.	SEC.	Staff Qualifications
Teachers of Exceptional Students			OCT & qualified to teach in Pr/Jr/Int/Sr divisions
Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs)	67.5 FTE	13 FTE	Special Education (min. Part I)
Teachers for Self-Contained Classes	29 FTE	46 FTE	Special Education (min. Part I)
Other Special Education Staff			Special Education (min. Part I)
Principal Leader Special Education	1.0		Principal Qualifications; Special Education Specialist
Program Coordinators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Education Applied Behavioural Analysis 	2.0		Special Education Specialist
Teacher Consultants: Special Education General	Elementary 4.0 Secondary 1.0		Special Education Specialist
Teacher Consultants: Alternative Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intellectual Disabilities Autism Gifted 	Elementary 3.0 Secondary 1.0		Special Education Specialist
Teacher Technician <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistive Technology Deaf/Hard of Hearing 	2.0		Special Education (min. Part I)
Itinerant Teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology Inclusion 	2.0		Special Education (min. Part I)
Virtual T.H.R.I.V.E. Teacher	1.0		Special Education (min. Part I)

GRAND ERIE SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN – JULY 2022

Educational Assistants in Special Education		
Educational Assistants	312	Community College Diploma in field relating to special needs; experience
Itinerant Supply Educational Assistants	8	Community College Diploma in field relating to special needs; experience
Lead Educational Assistant	7.0	Community College Diploma in field relating to special needs; experience
Lead Educational Assistant for Special Education Amount (SEA) Support	1.0	Community College Diploma in field relating to special needs; experience

Other Professional Support Services Staff		
School Programs and Supports Lead	1.0	Master's Degree
School Mental Health and Well- Being Lead	1.0	Master's Degree
Psycho-Educational Consultants	6.0	Master's Degree
Speech-Language Pathologists	7.0	Master's Degree in Speech/Language
Communicative Disorder Assistants	7.0	Community College/University
Social Workers	7.5	Master's Degree in Social Work
Board Certified Behaviour Analyst	2.0	Master's Degree
Behaviour Counsellors	5.0	Bachelor of Arts or Child & Youth Services Worker Diploma
Child and Youth Workers	14.0	Child & Youth Services Worker Diploma
Indigenous Child and Youth Worker	1.0	Child & Youth Services Worker Diploma
Attendance Counsellors	6.0	Bachelor of Arts
Indigenous Attendance Counsellors	1.0	Bachelor of Arts

Standard 13: STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the board's professional development plans for special education staff to the Ministry and to the public.

Goal

The goal of the Special Education Staff Development Plan in Grand Erie is to ensure that all staff has current knowledge and skills to provide appropriate support and programming for all students with special needs.

Involving the Stakeholders

Areas for professional development are determined by:

- Ministry of Education
- Senior administration
- System support personnel
- School and area administration
- Special Education and regular classroom teachers/early childhood educators
- Educational Assistants
- Parents/Guardians

Professional Development activities offered by the Board are often determined by staff identifying perceived areas of need. Input is received through the following avenues:

System:

- Special Education/Student Support Services
- Special Education Team (Principal Leader, Coordinator, Consultants, Mental Health & Wellness Lead, School and Program Supports Lead)
- Executive Council, in consultation with school administrators
- The Board's Multi-Year Plan
- The Board's Annual Operating Plans
- System Committees
- Secondary Special Services Department Heads Association
- Leadership Steering Committee

Area:

- Administrators
- Area support staff

Family:

- Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs) and Special Education classroom teachers request in-service
- Teacher Consultants - Special Education identify family needs
- CUPE Professional Development Committee
- School Professional Development Committees

School:

- administrators and staff request in-service for perceived areas of need
- School Councils and Home and School Associations request in-service
- school teams or resource teams request in-service
- school-based professional development committees

SEAC is consulted about staff development in the following ways:

- monthly meetings
- access through the Board's web page
- participation in Ministry of Education training sessions

Professional Development and Training

Priorities in the area of staff development are determined by:

- compliance with Ministry of Education directives, regulations, and initiatives
- response to urgent needs of students, staff and Board
- response to Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results
- related area of emphasis in Special Education
- response to demographic needs as identified by system personnel, community support agencies, medical staff, advocacy groups
- response to health and safety issues.

Staff development is provided in a variety of formats:

- Workshops on Professional Development days, before and after-school sessions, staff meetings at the invitation of school principals, and in the context of system initiatives such as the Fundamentals of Math, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)
- Just-in-time training for LRTs on special education processes, Ministry requirements, etc.
- School and system training to develop an understanding of new Ministry requirements is provided as needs arise
- Training to support system programs for new to role staff is on-going (i.e., Individual Education Plan (IEP) writing, Academic Achievement Battery (AAB), Behaviour Management Systems Training (BMS), Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA), Tragic Events Response Team (TERT))
- Conferences are attended by board staff throughout the year by designated staff
- Training in current counselling methods for the purpose of evidence-based and consistent approaches and services delivery.

Awareness of Professional Development Opportunities

Ways in which the School Board staff are made aware of professional development opportunities:

- School Resource Team Meetings, and Support Staff Meetings
- Staff Portal
- Staff email
- Monthly administrator and LRT Special Education newsletters
- Biweekly *Special Edition for Special Education* memo for Special Education Department Staff
- E-teacher electronic bulletin board and registration system
- Board maintained web page
- Family of Schools Administrators' Meetings

Much of our Professional Development work this year involved shifting traditional workshop sessions and resources to a virtual, online model that can be accessed at any time. Staff have been involved with creating resources and videos to post in the Special Education Professional Learning Environment (PLE) in BrightSpace. Any workshops delivered were also recorded and posted in the Special Education PLE.

The following formal Professional Development opportunities were offered during the 2020-21 school year:

Title	Description
Behaviour Management System (BMS)	Multiple sessions offered on PD days, after school, or at school locations where the main goals include improving safety and security for all staff and students, the promotion of respectful working and learning environments and breaking the cycle of inappropriate behaviour and consequences.
BMS Recertification	Recertification session for those already trained in Behaviour Management Systems.
ASIST	Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training for staff only
LRT Training Sessions	Workshops offered throughout the year to highlight new items that affect Learning Resource Teachers – upgrades to LITE, Medical Plans, changes to SEA, transition planning, IEP consultation, alternative programming, Human Rights, etc.
iPad Training	Individual training offered by our Lead EA for SEA when iPads are delivered to schools. System LRTs also train individual teachers on the use of student-specific apps. Special training videos were also added this year and are available on the Special Education Professional Learning Environment in Brightspace for staff to access and learn from.

GRAND ERIE SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN – JULY 2022

SEA Computer Training	Students who are receiving SEA computer technology for the first time are given training through LEARNStyle, the largest provider of assistive technology training in Ontario. Teachers are given the opportunity to participate in LEARNStyle training sessions, to further their own understanding of technology and how it applies to learning skills and learning styles. Special training sessions were added this year for Virtual Learning Academy teachers. Further, when students are trialing SEA computers, classroom teachers receive an individual consultation session with the SEA Teacher Technician to ensure that they understand the available software and strategies to embed the technology in the student's individualized classroom program.
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Title	Description
Apple Collaborative Inquiry	Accessibility tools and apps on iPads can effectively reduce learning barriers for many students. iPads also offer effective teaching tools for staff use. Led by our Educational Technology Department and an Apple trainer, a group of special education staff including Coordinators, Teacher Consultants, Lead EAs, Teacher Technicians, CYWs, Psychological Consultants, SLPs, and CDAs participated in a Collaborative Inquiry to investigate how the iPad could support tasks specific to individual roles. The team met weekly to explore the tools and then bi-weekly and monthly to report back on implementation. The group eventually sub-divided into tool exploration and coaching strategies.
Academic Achievement Battery™ (AAB)	This two-part in-service on our educational assessment tool was delivered to new LRTs. Assessment administration, test interpretation, report writing, and storage of information were covered. Refresher sessions were also offered and open to all LRTs.
New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) – Special Education Presentations	<p>A series of special education topics were offered to NTIP teachers for virtual attendance on a voluntary basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ How Do I Know When A Student Needs an IEP? ■ Following a Student Through Special Education ■ Self-Regulation ■ All About Alternative Programming ■ Understanding Anxiety and Grand Erie's Tiered Approach to Mental Health ■ Promoting Healthy Relationships and Grand Erie's Tiered Approach to Mental Health ■ So, You Have A Student With Autism ■ Differentiating for High Ability Students
Topics in Response to School Requests	Administrators request professional development for their staff members on a regular basis, with training usually delivered at Staff Meetings or during smaller group sessions. Topics have included: Following A Student With A Learning Disability, Pathway to Modifications, SEA Process, Behaviour Data Tracking and BeSafe Plans, Moving Students Toward Independence, Structured Work Systems, Special Education Pathways in Secondary, Special Education in Grand Erie for VLA Teachers, etc.

GRAND ERIE SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN – JULY 2022

Lexia	Lexia is a responsive online literacy intervention tool. The Core5 program can be used with students in grades K-5 who are struggling with literacy. The Power Up program is for students in grades 6 and up. The program covers phonemic awareness, phonics, grammar, vocabulary, and comprehension. Introductory, implementation, and refresher webinars were also offered to all classroom teachers and administrators. A webinar focusing on analysis of Lexia data and improving usage/engagement was also offered to principals.
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Title	Description
TeachTown Basics and Transition to Adulthood	TeachTown offers a blend of computer-delivered and teacher-led ABA instruction proven to increase a student's vocabulary, listening skills, social-emotional development, independence, academics and cognitive skills. The system automatically adapts based on each individual's progress providing meaningful instruction to all students. This year we have offered TeachTown licenses to students working on alternative curriculum. Introductory, implementation, and coaching training sessions were offered to staff for both programs. Train the Trainer sessions were also offered to Teacher Consultants.

Ministry of Education (MOE)-Funded Autism Training: Online, self-paced courses created by the Geneva Centre for Autism and delivered via the online platform Sonderly. A variety of courses were offered to Educational Assistants, Teachers, and DECEs on topics including introduction to autism, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), functional behaviour assessments, and supporting students with ASD in a play-based environment.

Enhanced Autism Training Program: Ministry-funded pilot project. 11 LRTs who work in schools with a self-contained ASD class participated by completing an online Geneva Centre for Autism course via the online platform Sonderly and consolidating their learning at a full-day live-session (virtual) facilitated by the Geneva Centre for Autism.

Training with regard to the Legislation and Ministry policy on Special Education:

The Board sends Special Education personnel (Superintendent, Principal-Leader, School and Program Supports Lead, Mental Health and Well-Being Lead, Program Coordinator, and Teacher Consultants) to in-services provided by the Ministry of Education on legislation, policy and new initiatives.

These people return to the Board and present the information detailed at the Ministry's in-service to Administrators, Special Education and regular class teachers and other board support personnel. All teachers, including new practitioners, are encouraged to attend. If staff have difficulty with implementation of policies, the Teacher Consultants-Special Education provide further training and support.

In addition, senior special education staff attends the Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) meetings three times per year. Counterparts from other boards in South-Western Ontario and representatives from the Ministry of Education discuss initiatives, share effective programs and services, and discuss emerging issues. The Mental Health and Wellness Lead attends provincial and regional meetings and workshops by School Mental Health ASSIST and Special Interest Groups. The Special Education Management Team attend applicable workshops on education, Special Education, Mental Health legislation provide by Osgoode

Professional Development Centre.

Program Coordinator-Special Education and Special Education Teacher Consultants usually attend the Special Education Regional Coordinator/Consultant Conference (SERCC) which meets twice a year to discuss Ministry of Education initiatives, share effective programs and services and discuss emerging issues in Special Education. SERCC did not take place this year due to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

Budget allocation dedicated to the staff development plan in the area of Special Education:

There are a few components of the Staff Development Budget, which affect Special Education personnel:

- Special Education Teachers can access monies as dictated by their collective agreement and their school Professional Development Committees.
- Professional Student Support Services Staff have a budget determined by their collective agreement to attend conferences/training related to their role.
- CUPE staff also have a collective agreement determined PD amount intended to provide in-service for Special Education and other Support Staff by application to their Professional Development Committee.
- Coordinators and consultants responsible for Special Education can access funds to attend professional development.

A percentage of total funds allocated for professional development is dedicated to Special Education.

Cost-sharing arrangements for staff development with other ministries or agencies:

- Workshops by teleconference through Contact Brant (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services)
- Regional Autism Forum - Ministry of Education
- Job Readiness Training - NACL (Norfolk Association of Community Living)
- Early Child Development Centers and Launch Pads
- Geneva Centre
- ASD, School Support Program-Hamilton Health Sciences
- Transitional Aged Youth Protocol with Contact Brant
- Autism Spectrum Disorder summer training in London, in support of PPM 140
- LD@School Educators' Summer Institute

Standard 14: EQUIPMENT

The purpose of the standard is to inform the ministry, board staff members and other professionals, and parents/guardians about the provision of individualized equipment for some students with special needs.

Procedures for determining individualized equipment purchases for students to use at school comply with those outlined in the Ministry of Education document Special Education Funding Guidelines – Special Equipment Amount (SEA).

With the support of Teacher Consultants-Special Education, schools prepare a Special Equipment Amount (SEA) funding file for each individual student. Some types of equipment (Per Pupil) require approval from the SEA Approval Committee while others require an assessment (Claims Based) from a Speech-Language Pathologist or any other related health care professional or agency indicating that the student requires a specific piece of equipment.

Included in the file for non-computer (Claims-Based) equipment:

- letters of support from the professionals or organizations indicating that:
 - i) the equipment is essential / necessary to help the student benefit from instruction
 - ii) the disability that this device will assist with
 - iii) quotes from suppliers for the required equipment
 - iv) a copy of the student's IEP identifying equipment and embedding the equipment in the accommodations and program expectations to provide evidence of intended use

Included in the file for computer (Per Pupil) equipment:

- evidence that the student is having difficulty accessing curriculum (report cards, educational assessment results, letters of support from the school)
- evidence that the student uses technology willingly and effectively on a regular basis (assistive technology log, work samples)
- a copy of the student's IEP identifying equipment and embedding the equipment in the accommodations and program expectations to provide evidence of intended use

Students receive training with assistive technology through LEARNStyle, and teachers are supported with implementing technology into their teaching processes by a SEA Teacher Technician. Following training and demonstration of effective use, files are submitted to the Program Coordinator, Special Education.

Information contained in the SEA files will be entered to a spreadsheet and submitted to the Area Office according to procedures and dates determined by the Ministry of Education.

Upon receipt of the SEA submissions, the Ministry may audit randomly selected files.

The Board assumes the first \$800.00 cost of non-computer equipment purchased for each student.

Not all SEA submissions are approved by the Ministry. The Board may assume the purchase costs of equipment deemed necessary for the student.

The Special Equipment Amount (SEA) provides funding to school boards to assist with the costs of equipment essential to support students with special needs, where the need for specific equipment is to provide students with access to the Ontario curriculum, or a board-determined program, and to attend school. Equipment purchased with SEA funding should be considered as a set of physical assets, which boards have a responsibility to protect, maintain, and manage as a public resource. Grand Erie has developed and follows internal

operating policies and procedures regarding the purchase, repair, use and disposal of equipment purchased with SEA funding.

Equipment Contd.

There are typically four types of equipment purchased with SEA funds on behalf of students:

1. assistive technology
2. adaptive technology/equipment
3. technology/equipment to support a hearing loss
4. sensory equipment

The Ministry of Education has recently allowed for the SEA Per-Pupil Amount to be used to purchase computer software that increases access to the Ontario curriculum, including reading intervention tools like Lexia.

Specialized training on the use of this equipment is also purchased with SEA funds when required.

School boards' responsibilities include ensuring that:

1. equipment is functioning properly and is meeting students' needs.
2. equipment is replaced as required when students outgrow equipment or when equipment wears out through use.
3. upgrades and refurbishment are considered as an option before replacement.
4. equipment is reused by other students when no longer required by the student for whom it was purchased.
5. efforts are made to share equipment among several students when appropriate and possible.
6. policies are developed that provide board staff with direction on issues such as:
 - managing transfers between schools and boards.
 - use of equipment in students' home, in co-op placements, and in other program settings, including Section 23 classrooms.
 - staff training on use of SEA funded equipment.
 - inventory records.
 - documenting use of equipment in student's IEPs, where equipment is required to support the student.
7. reasonable efforts are made to acquire a fair market value when disposing of used equipment

Boards are required to internally allocate an adequate amount of additional funding to support the other costs associated with ensuring that all students who need equipment have access to appropriate equipment. These other costs include the \$800 per pupil deductible, the purchase of equipment that costs less than \$800 for students who require low-cost items, on-going insurance costs, consumables such as batteries or paper for printouts, the cost of parts for upgrading or refurbishing equipment and staff costs for managing equipment purchasing, set-up, repairs, training, and inspections.

At times, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary to ensure the safety of

staff. Examples of PPE that can be utilized include but are not limited to.

Scratch guards 	Forearm protectors 	Padded jackets 
Head protection 	Shin guards 	Shields 

Standard 15: ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The purpose of the standard is to provide the ministry with further details of the board's multi-year plan, which was previously submitted to the ministry, for improving accessibility for students with physical and sensory disabilities, and to provide the public with this information.

The Grand Erie District School Board has approved a multi-year capital expenditure plan for improving accessibility to its buildings, grounds and administrative offices, including resources dedicated to providing barrier-free access in the coming years. The Board's plan includes increasing accessibility to as many school buildings as possible and providing specific facilities to accommodate students with special needs. Accessibility upgrades are considered any time a renovation or addition is made to a building.

Each elementary Family of Schools (Brantford, Brant and Norfolk, Haldimand) has at least one school ranked at Level Three and another at Level 4.

Each secondary Family of Schools (Brantford/Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk) has at least one school ranked at Level Three and another at Level 4.

The criteria provided to rank buildings for each Level of Accessibility is as follows:

Level One

Building cannot be reasonably made accessible.

Level Two

Building is accessible, has some washroom modifications to accommodate wheelchairs and limited interior access.

Level Three

Building has complete access and washroom(s) can accommodate wheelchairs.

Level Four

Meets Level Three plus additional features to accommodate students who are medically fragile.

In addition, to qualify as Level Three the facility should have the following features:

- 'main' entrance convenient for drop off and is wheelchair accessible:
 - includes ramping and rails meeting Ontario Building Code specifications and power door operators on both the exterior and vestibule doors
 - vestibule must also meet minimum distance requirements.
- all rooms (except stage) within the school are wheelchair accessible:
 - Level Three facilities will be reviewed for interior "hold open" devices
 - budget costs will be provided to complete the work
 - cost for each door device is approximately \$1000.
- at least one separate washroom or one male and one female washroom in the school will accommodate wheelchairs:
 - recommendation for future considerations that a separate washroom be designed to accommodate a change table, storage and other specialized equipment.

The Special Education Program Coordinator and Facilities Services Personnel meet as a team to review the suitability of school sites in meeting the needs of students with accessibility needs on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to the Accessibility Plan, school boards are also required to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) including the Customer Service Standard and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation. The Grand Erie District School Board approved a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan which integrates the requirements of both the Ontarians with Disability Act and the AODA and addresses Employment, Communication and Information, and Transportation. Revisions to the Ontario Building Code related to accessibility for the Built Environment are implemented in all new buildings.

The Grand Erie DSB Accessibility Plan can be found on the Grand Erie DSB's website.

[Grand Erie DSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017-22](#)

Standard 16: TRANSPORTATION

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the Board's transportation policies to the ministry and the public.

The following students with special needs are eligible for transportation:

- students with special education needs who would be unable to travel independently, due to a variety of reasons, to special class placement at their home school
- students placed in a self-contained class which is not located in their home school
- students with special education needs who would be unable to travel independently due to a variety of reasons to regular class placement will be determined on a case-by-case basis
- students with special education needs requiring a modified day or fresh start will be determined on a case-by-case basis
- A student's transportation is usually decided collaboratively with parents/guardians and school/Teacher Consultant for Special Education following an IPRC or transition meeting.
- Transportation may be provided to a student who is attending a care or treatment program if it is on an existing bus route. Transportation is not provided to/from a correctional facility or locations outside of the Board's district boundary
- Transportation is provided to students who have been placed in a Provincial or Demonstration School through a system IPRC. Students may be transported on a daily, weekly, or other basis to and from the school
- Limited transportation is available for summer school. Currently students are required to congregate at specific locations.

Policy and Procedures were reviewed with respect to special transportation arrangements. The procedures are as follows:

- The School Principal will contact the Teacher Consultant-Special Education, who will arrange for transportation through the board transportation department.
- The Teacher Consultant-Special Education will complete an "Individual Transportation Plan (ITP)" form that is submitted to the transportation department. An ITP identifies supports required during transportation based on individual student needs.
- Plans of care may also be created by the school team for students whose individual needs require more specific support than what is outlined in the ITP.
- School administrators may arrange to meet with drivers and Rider Aides to review plans of care when needed.

Safety criteria that are used by the Board in the tendering and selection of transportation providers for exceptional students are as follows:

- drivers must have emergency first aid certification and be able to meet the need(s) of the student they are providing service to, as per the ITP and any support plans which may accompany them.
- wheelchairs must be secured during transit.
- all buses require two-way communication
- Rider Aides will be assigned when required on a case-by-case basis

Roles and responsibilities, as it relates to transportation services, are detailed in Board's transportation procedures 004, 005, 006, 007, and 008; available at:

<https://stsbn.ca/policies-procedures>.

The board transportation department annually reviews transportation requirements for service providers under their contracts.

Standard 17: SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the standard is to provide details of the operation of the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to the ministry and to give the members of the public information to which they are entitled.

Names and Affiliations of Members and Contact Information

Chair: Wendy Rose – Elected January 20, 2022

Vice-Chair: Lorraine DeJong – Elected January 20, 2022

Local Agency Representatives:

Community Living Brant

Tara Buchanan, Supervisor of Employment Supports 519-753-6303, ext. 441

Contact Brant

LeaAnn Boswell, Information Services Coordinator 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, Board of Directors 519-909-9193

Lansdowne Children's Centre

Lorraine DeJong, Social Worker 519-753-3153, ext. 202

Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services

Amanda Detmar, Tele-Mental Health Coordinator 519-752-5308 ext. 137

Parents/Community Representatives:

Carol Brady 289-244-8743

Beth Bruce / Tammy Sault 905-768-3222

Mike Gatopoulos 519-717-0874

Kathy Jones 519-586-8852

Wendy Rose (Chair) 519-448-1569 Joe Trovato 289- 218-7592

Tara Wilson 226-493-1111

Native Representative:

Lisa Nydam – Six Nations Representative 289-439-2968

Trustees:

Rita Collver 519-582-4969

Tom Waldschmidt 519-442-2140

Alternates **Brian Doyle** 519-587-4268 and **David Dean** 519-759-8625

Grand Erie Staff:

Liana Thompson

Superintendent of Education 519-756-6301, ext. 281122

Paula Curran

SEAC Recording Secretary 519-756-6301, ext. 281173 (until February 2022)

Jennifer Valstar

SEAC Recording Secretary 519-756-6301, ext. 281173 (May 2022 continuing)

Resource:

Piyali Bagchee

Mental Health and Wellness Lead 519-756-6301, ext. 287226

Fran Lainson

Program Coordinator – Special Education 519-756-6301, ext. 287217

Lindsay Sheppard

Applied Behaviour Analysis Coordinator 519-756-6301, ext. 287227

Julie White

Principal Leader – Special Education 519-756-6301, ext. 287214

What is SEAC?

- SEAC is an advisory committee mandated through the Education Act as a standing committee of each school board and governed by O. Reg. 464/97: Special Education Advisory Committees
- 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) parents and other community representatives
 - b) representatives of up to 12 local chapters of associations which further the interests of people with exceptional needs
 - c) at least one person representing the interests of Native Students; and
 - d) board personnel who act as a resource to the committee

How are SEAC Members selected?

- The term of members of the committee shall be the same as the term of the Board of Trustees
- In September of an election year, the Superintendent of Education with responsibility for Special Education shall commence a recruitment process for a new roster of SEAC members.
- Current members in good standing will be asked to confirm their commitment to SEAC.
- If a full complement is not achieved from current members, the Communications department will place ads on the board's website and in selected media inviting interested persons to submit a letter of intention to the SEAC Chair.
- All current SEAC members will be involved in this process and the Committee will submit a proposed roster to the board of Trustees for approval by the November Board meeting

What does SEAC do?

- 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 begin at 6:00 p.m. either virtually through an electronic meeting application or at the Education Centre, 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, and are open to the public.

Thur. September 16/21	Thur. January 20/22	Thur. May 19/22
Thur. October 21/21	Thur. February 17/22	Thur. June 16/22
Thur. November 18/21	Thur. March 10/22	
Thur. December 9/21	Thur. April 21/22	

How SEAC Fulfilled its Role and Responsibilities:

Public Consultation

The Grand Erie District School Board values collaboration with families and community members.

What was done –

- A banner was placed on the Grand Erie DSB main webpage reminding the public to provide input through the survey which is linked to the Special Education Plan.
- School Administrators were asked to ensure parents are aware of the survey and encouraged to participate.

Making Recommendations to the Board

With respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students within the board:

What was done –

- Members received presentation on programs and services resulting in discussions.
- Members received presentation on special education budgets and invitation to present suggestions for increases or reductions on certain line items.

Participating in the Board's Annual Review of the Special Education Plan

What was done –

Consultation with the Special Education Advisory Committee

To meet the requirements of Regulation 464/97, the Grand Erie District School Board has ensured that its Special Education Advisory Committee has participated in the Board's Annual Review of its Special Education Plan guided by Regulation 306 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario (1990). Involvement has included:

- ongoing discussion at SEAC meetings throughout the 2021-22 school year
- presentations on programs and services provided for students with special needs
- opportunity for input through an online survey link on the Grand Erie District School Board website

September 16, 2021

- A Day in the Life of The Attendance Counsellor – Presentation
- Grand Erie's Multi-Year Strategic Plan – Presentation
- Special Education Summer Programs – Review
- Education Standards 2021 initial Recommendations – Review
- Priorities 2021-22 in Special Education and Mental Health, and overview of new positions – Review
- Renaming the Special Education Department – Presentation
- LDAO Conference 2021 – Review
- Shortage of Nurses in Ontario – Presentation
- SEAC Orientation Handbook – Review
- LITE Data 2020-21 – Presentation
- Public Consultation for Special Education Plan - Presentation

October 21, 2021

- Balanced School Year Pilot Project – Presentation
- A Day in the Life of the Speech Pathologist – Presentation
- Annual Update – Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017 – 2022 - Presentation
- Grand Erie's Student Achievement and Well-Being Plan 2021-21 – Presentation
- The History of IPRC – Presentation
- Accessible Features EQAO for OSSLT Update – Review

November 18, 2021

- Destreamed Math and the Inclusion of Students with Special Needs – Presentation
- A Day in the Life of the Communicative Disorders Assistant – Presentation
- A Practical Guide to the Duty to Accommodate – Presentation
- Input on the Term "Special Education" – Presentation
- Lexia Data Collection Update – Review
- AODA Education Standard Recommendations – Review

GRAND ERIE SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN – JULY 2022

- A Bold New Vision – Grand Erie’s Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2012-26 and Annual Learning and Operating Plan 2021-22 – Presentation
- T.H.R.I.V.E – Virtual Mode Program to Provide Enriched Learning Opportunities for Students – Presentation
- Policy/Program Memorandum 81 Provision of health Support Services in School Settings – Review
- Remote Learning Guide for Students with Special Education Needs – Review
- Transitions to School – Review of Current Process and Input Sessions – Presentation
- Regional Special Education Council Updates - Presentation

December 9, 2021

- A Day in the Life of the Psychoeducational Consultant – Presentation
- Standard 16 – Transportation – Review
- Special Education Guiding Principles - Presentation
- Self-Contained Planning – Input Session – Presentation
- Technology Access Clinic – Wait Lists – Presentation
- Policy/Procedures Out for Comment – F2, SO-008, SO-08 - Review

January 20, 2022

- Grade 3 CCAT Data – Outcomes 2021-21 and Process 2021-22 – Presentation
- OnSIS Data for Students with Special Education Needs – Presentation
- Transitions to Post-Secondary – Presentation
- Standard 19 – Submission and Availability of the Plan – Review

February 17, 2022

- Expulsion and Exclusions for Students with Special Education Needs – Review
- PPM81 - Review

March 10, 2022

- A Day in the Life of the Social Worker – Presentation
- PM167 – Online Learning Graduation Requirement – Review
- Entry to School for Students on the Autism Spectrum – Presentation

April 21, 2022

- Grand Erie’s Special Education Plan 2021-22 – Draft – Review
- PPM 140, 156 – Review
- Project SEARCH Update – Presentation
- EQAO Update – Presentation
- Educational Assistants – 2022-23 – Review

May 19, 2022

- Communications Plan – Presentation
- Grand Erie’s Student Census – Review
- Summer Programs for Students with Special Education Needs – 2022 – Presentation

June 16, 2022

- Grand Erie's Annual Learning Plan Update – Presentation
- Ontario Human right's Commission Right to Read recommendations – Presentation
- Grand Erie's Literacy Plan – Draft – Review
- Project SEARCH Update - Presentation

Participating in the Development of the Board's Annual Budget for Special Education:

What was done

February 17, 2022

- Financial Update 2021-22
- 2022-23 Budget Process – Review

Grand Erie financial Statements are available on our website: [2021-22 Fiscal Budget](#)

Contacting SEAC for Membership or to Express a View:

Parents, community members, or members of local associations wishing representation on SEAC or wishing to express their views on a special education topic should contact Wendy Rose, the SEAC Chair at dee.rose@me.com

Questions Related to Special Education Services or Programs:

Principal Leader of Special Education (Services) 519-756-6301, ext. 287214 OR

Program Coordinator of Special Education (Programs) 519-756-6301, ext. 287217

SEAC Terms of Reference:

Terms of Reference for SEAC will be included in the first SEAC agenda package (September) of each school year.

Standard 18: CO-ORDINATION OF SERVICES WITH OTHER MINISTRIES OR AGENCIES

The purpose of the standard is to provide the ministry and the public with details of the board's strategies to ensure a smooth transition for students with special needs who are entering or leaving a school.

Transition Planning Process

The process for advance planning for students with special needs who are arriving from other programs is outlined as follows:

- i) For students entering school for the first time, intake meetings are scheduled in the Spring for students entering Grand Erie in September of that year. For students entering school at any other time during the school year, the outside agency contacts the Program Coordinator of Special Education or Teacher Consultant-Special Education to arrange a meeting. The content of the meetings provides a brief overview of students entering Grand Erie. From the information obtained in the meetings, the Teacher Consultants-Special Education are able to determine placements within the Board which will meet the child's needs.
- ii) Individual case conferences are held at the home school for students with high needs. The parent/guardians, agency staff, and the school staff are present. Teacher Consultants Special Education, Community agency staff, etc. may also be invited to attend. Specific information such as school placements, equipment needs, and any other relevant information is discussed.
- iii) For students with fewer special needs, individual case conferences will be scheduled at the request of the parent/guardians or agency. These will also be held at the school. School administrators, LRT's Special Education and classroom teachers will participate in the meeting.
- iv) The process for students with special needs who are arriving from a care, treatment, correctional or other board programs is as follows:
 - Care and Treatment Facility staff contacts school who notifies Teacher Consultant-Special Education.
 - Obtain signed parent/guardian consent for exchange of information.
 - A case conference will be initiated by Grand Erie staff or a referral agency. It may include the following board personnel: Teacher Consultant-Special Education, School Administrator and Special Education staff or classroom teacher and other appropriate system personnel. Parent/guardians and agency personnel may also be in attendance. Information which is relevant to the student's successful transition to school will be discussed including supports required, Special Education Amount, Special Education Amount (SEA) claims, the Individual Education Plan (IEP), medical or health/safety issues and other relevant information. A transition plan will be developed by system personnel. Minutes of the case conference will be taken and forwarded to the parent/guardians and a representative from the agency or board.
 - Further case conferences may be required to monitor the student's transition to school.

Transition Planning Process Contd.

Sharing of information to support the transition from Pre-School Speech and Language Services (PSL) to School Speech and Language Services (SLS) for students entering their Senior Kindergarten year in September, involves meetings between Speech-Language Pathologists in May/June of the Junior Kindergarten year after the informed consent of the

parent/guardian has been obtained. PSL providers provide a written copy of the most recent assessment report along with recommendations to school principals in the fall, so that discussions and referrals can be made at the Resource Team. Service cut off dates for Junior Kindergarten aged students are different for the Brant County Speech

and Language Program than they are for the Haldimand-Norfolk Speech and Language Program. This information is received by Grand Erie and shared in a variety of ways with parents and school staff.

The Board has developed an “Early School Transition for Students with Special Needs” document for students with developmental disabilities, autism/PDD and other exceptionalities to facilitate a smooth transition into school. The Special Education Program Support Team has also developed a “Transitions Guide for School Teams” document that can support staff to facilitate smooth transitions for a variety of situations where students may be moving from one setting to another. Grand Erie participates in parent information sessions called “Parents as Partners” with Lansdowne, Haldimand- Norfolk R.E.A.C.H., and the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board to assist with school entry for students with special education needs.

Grand Erie also works closely with various community agencies (e.g., Contact Brant, Contact Haldimand-Norfolk, Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H., St. Leonard's, Woodview), regarding students transitioning to or from schools.

Protocols have been developed with the following outside agencies to clarify roles and responsibilities:

- Child Welfare Agencies Autism Support Services
- Hamilton-Niagara Regional Autism Intervention Program
- Six Nations Tragic Events Response Team
- Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol
- Police and School Board Protocol
- Partnering Together for Healthy Schools Protocol

The Board's Procedure addressing partnership development (SO108: “Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together”) continues to be implemented with community partners annually.

Outside Assessment Reports

Reports prepared by other professionals outside the Board are reviewed to determine what information provided helps delineate a student's learning needs, strengths or problems and how it can be used for the improvement of instruction within a school context and in accordance with the *Education Act*, (R.S.O. 1990, S.226(2)). Where this information differs from data collected at the school, discussions at the Resource Team determine how best to proceed. There is no requirement that assessments or reassessments must be conducted by Board personnel (i.e., reports are “transportable”). Allocation of educational resources and educational programming decisions remain the responsibility of school/system staff.

Transitions to Out of Board Programs

When students leave this system to attend programs offered by other school boards or programs in care, treatment and correctional facilities, information is shared in the following ways, with *written and informed parental/guardian consent*:

- the Teacher Consultant-Special Education, School Administrator, LRT or special class teacher will contact the School Board or agency to establish a contact person from within our Board. A copy of the signed parental consent form giving staff permission to share information will be forwarded to the facility.

- the contact person will communicate with the School Board or agency to confirm information that may be required, the dates and personnel required to attend case conferences, etc.

Staff Supporting Transitions

Board personnel ensuring the successful admission or transfer of students from one program to another may be one or a combination of the following:

- Teacher Consultant-Special Education
- School Administrator
- regular classroom teacher
- Learning Resource Teacher (LRT)
- special class teacher
- other board support personnel such as Social Workers, Child and Youth Workers, Behaviour Counsellors, Board Certified Behaviour Analysts, Speech-Language Pathologists, Psychological Associates/Psycho-Educational Consultants and Lead Educational Assistant

Successful transition will also require parent/guardian commitment, collaboration and support

If the student is transferring to a program outside our Board, successful transition may require some involvement from the individuals as noted above. However, the agency or board where the student will be in attendance will need to implement a transition plan based on the information supplied by Board personnel.

Community Partnership Planning

Grand Erie staff represents the board at several community planning committees and initiatives including: Children's Services Committee (Brant); Child and Youth Planning Network (Brant and Haldimand-Norfolk); Joint Protocol for Student Achievement; Brant Suicide Prevention Committee; Suicide Prevention Network of Haldimand-Norfolk, and Case Resolution, which bring together agencies, ministries and school boards to consider common interests.

Grand Erie continues to implement SO108 Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together. This allows for a better understanding of community services, facilitates communication and collaboration between community agencies and the school board, and increases access to mental health services with a school setting. Partnerships continue to be reviewed annually with the community partner.

Standard 19 - SUBMISSION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN

Each board is required to make its special education plan available to the public at the same time it submits the plan to the ministry. The board must inform the public in a variety of ways how to access the plan.

Two copies of the special education plan approved by the school board, and any amendments must be forwarded to the local district office of the Ministry of Education. The complete plan must be submitted along with the following documents:

- A letter from the director of the school board that confirms that the school board's special education plan is being submitted in compliance with the requirements of Regulation 306 and of the Standard's for School Boards' Special Education Plans.
- a copy of the board's motion approval of the plan, including the date of the approval; and
- a copy of any related motions or recommendations from SEAC

At the April 21, 2022 meeting the Special Education Advisory Committee received the first draft version of the Special Education Plan.

On May 19, 2022 the Special Education Advisory Committee passed the following motions:

"THAT SEAC recommends the Board approve the Special Education Plan as amended for submission to the Ministry and uploading to the Board's website."

On June 13, 2022 the Grand Erie District School Board passed the following motion:

"THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Annual Review of the Special Education Plan, and the submission of two copies of the plan and the Special Education Report Components Checklist to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Education by July 31, 2022."

In accordance with the Ministry of Education "Special Education Plans and Reporting Requirements on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services", the 2021-22 Special Education checklist will be signed by Ms. J. Roberto, Director of Education and Secretary of the Grand Erie District School Board and will be submitted to the London Regional Office of the Ministry of Education with two copies of the 2021-22 Special Education Plan. The checklist confirms that the School Board's Special Education Plan has been updated and posted to the Board's website. The posted Plan continues to be compliant with the requirements of Regulation 306 and the policy document Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans.

The Board's Annual Review of the Special Education Plan will be available to the public at the same time the checklist is submitted to the Ministry.

The public will be informed through Board minutes, School Principals, School Councils, SEAC members and the website on how to access the Plan.

The 2021-22 Special Education Plan will be available through the Board's website:

<https://granderie.ca/board/programsandlearning/special-education>

A copy of any related motions or recommendations from the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee will also be submitted.

The following recommendations from SEAC were made to the board during the 2021-22 school year.

October 21, 2021

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: L. DeJong

“THAT the letter outlining Grand Erie DSB SEAC comments in respect to the Education Standards Development Committee’s recent work be sent to them with a copy to Accessibility in Ontario.”

CARRIED

May 19, 2022

Moved by: C. Brady

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

“THAT SEAC recommends the Board approve the 2021-22 Special Education Plan for submission to the Ministry and uploading to the Board’s website.”

CARRIED

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[Click here to read the Annual Operating Plan for 2021-22](#)



Grand Erie District School Board
349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3

STUDENT PROFILE SUPPORT FORM - 28-Sep-2017

Name Last Name, First Name **OEN** 000000000 **Board Id #** 000000000 **Grade** 8
School School Name **Family** Teacher Consultant **DOB** dd-mmm-yyyy **Gender** F

Exceptional Student

Yes ☐ No ☒

Teacher

Miss Teacher

Credits Accumulated

Sources Of Information		Reason For Student Profile
(Select a date when a source has been reviewed or a new assessment completed)		Student has struggled to meet grade level expectations throughout her school career and has a non-identified accommodated IEP. Strategies need to be implemented as she makes the transition to secondary school.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation with Parents	Date 26-Sep-2017	Referral for <input type="radio"/> School Team <input checked="" type="radio"/> Resource Team Date 05-Oct-2017
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation with previous Teachers	Date 27-Sep-2017	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report Card Printout (attached)	Date 27-Sep-2017	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of OSR	Date 19-Sep-2017	

Strengths

- Oral communication skills
- Computer skills
- Kinesthetic learner

Needs

- Attempt new learning/opportunities
- Attention concentration skills
- Independent work habits
- Reading - Comprehension
- Express needs effectively
- Self-advocacy skills

Instructional Accommodations

- access to computer
- more frequent breaks
- organizational coaching
- cueing/prompting

Environmental Accommodations

- oral reporting
- minimize distractions
- alternative workspace
- proximity to instructor

Assessment Accommodations

- access to computer for written work
- alternate to written tests and exams
- ask student to only write main points then expand verbally
- chunk time of assessment
- extra time to respond
- more frequent breaks

Educational Assessments

Type	Date	Summary of Results
AAB - Academic Achievement Battery	20-Apr-2016	All subtests scored in the Average range, except Reading Comprehension, which was Low Average.

Clinical Assessments

Type	Date	Summary of Results
Medical Report	17-Feb-2012	She has a diagnosis of ADHD.

Program Goals

- To develop self-advocacy skills so that she will request assistance as needed.
- To develop the self-confidence to take risks in new learning opportunities.
- To develop independent work habits and task completion skills.

Student Details

- Outside Agency Involvement (list/indicate Agency below)
- IEP with Accommodations
- System Supports in Place (i.e., Social Work, Behaviour Counsellor)

At Risk/In Risk Characteristics

- Low academic performance (level 1 or lower) in Language

Personal, Organizational, and Social Strengths

- Cooperation
- Technology Skills

Learning Style

- Kinesthetic Learner
- Sequential Learner

Challenges

- Lack of self confidence



Grand Erie District School Board
349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3

Last Name, First Name
Appendix B

-Arrives unprepared for class

Pathway Recommendation

-Applied/College Program

Secondary Accommodations Recommended

-Peer Mentor
-Learning Strategies Course

Additional Information

Has support from Woodview counsellor, Ms. Counsellor.

Sample



Grand Erie District School Board
349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3

Last Name, First Name
Appendix B

STUDENT PROFILE SUPPORT FORM - 28-Sep-2017 (Continued)

Name	Last Name, First Name	OEN	000000000	Board Id #	000000000	Grade	3
School	School Name	Family	Teacher Consultant	DOB	dd-mmm-yyyy	Gender	FEMALE

Student Profile Activity Log

Date	Summary of Meeting Minutes/Strategies/Effectiveness/Next Steps	Type of Meeting (IST, RT, Case Conference, Parent/Teacher etc.) Attendees
14-Sep-2017	Referral to CYW to work on self-advocacy strategies and to develop confidence to take risks and attempt new learning opportunities. This will be important as she transitions to secondary school next year.	RT

Sample



Elementary Program

Grand Erie District School Board

Kindergarten Home Connection Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please complete the following form to help us get to know your Kindergarten child. Please return this form by the {second week of school – insert date}.

CHILD'S NAME

_____	_____	_____
Surname	First Name	Name Used

1. My child's strongest skills and best qualities are:

2. Is there anything about your child's preschool development (sitting, creeping, walking, talking) that you think we should know?

3. Does your child have allergies, sensitivities or food intolerances? Please elaborate.

4. Do you have any concerns about your child's vision / hearing / speech? Please elaborate.

5. What previous group experiences has your child had (e.g., YM-YWCA Program, Daycare, Library Story Hour, Early ON Centers, recreational activities, etc.)

6. What types of activities does your child enjoy most? (e.g., building, listening to stories/looking at books, games, toys, imaginative play, indoor/outdoor play.)



Elementary Program

Grand Erie District School Board

7. Are there traditions that are important to **your** family?

8. Is there anything else we need to know about your child to make their entry into school more successful? (e.g., first child in kindergarten, siblings, name of before/after school care provider, etc.)

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

I consent to the use of the personal information by all school board employees, contained herein, on a need-to-know basis, and who may be involved in my child's educational program.

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date

If the I.P.R.C. has identified your child as an exceptional pupil and you have agreed with the I.P.R.C. identification and placement decision, the Board will promptly notify the principal of the school at which the special education program is to be provided of the need to develop an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) for your child.

What about reviewing the I.P.R.C.?

A review meeting will be held within one year unless the parent notifies the principal in writing that they wish to waive the annual review. The parent may request a review meeting at any time after a placement has been in effect for three months, but the request may not be made more often than once in every three month period.

This review will consider the same types of information that were originally considered. With your written permission (request for review), the I.P.R.C. conducting the review will consider the progress your child has made in relation to the I.E.P. The I.P.R.C. will review the placement and identification decisions and decide whether they should continue or whether a different decision should now be made.

What can parents do if they disagree with the I.P.R.C. decision?

If you do not agree with either the identification or placement decision made by the I.P.R.C., you may

- within 15 days of receipt of the decision, request that the I.P.R.C. hold a second meeting to discuss your concerns: or
- within 30 days of receipt of the decision, file a notice of appeal with the Grand Erie District School Board.

If you do not agree with the decision after the second meeting, you may file a notice of appeal within 15 days of your receipt of the decision. If you do not consent to the I.P.R.C. decision and you do not appeal it, the Board will instruct the principal to implement the I.P.R.C. decision.

How do I appeal an IPRC decision?

If you disagree with the I.P.R.C.'s identification of your child as exceptional or with the placement decision of the I.P.R.C., you may, within 30 days of receipt of the original decision or within 15 days of receipt of the decision from the second meeting described above, give written notification of your intention to appeal the decision to the Grand Erie District School Board.

The notice of appeal must indicate the decision with which you disagree and include a statement that sets out your reasons for disagreeing.

What organizations are available to assist parents?

- [Association for Bright Children of Ontario](#)
- [Association for Community Living](#)
- [Autism Society of Ontario](#)
- [Canadian Hearing Services](#)
- [Down Syndrome Association of Ontario](#)
- [Tourette Syndrome Association of Canada](#)

Where can parents obtain additional information?

- the school principal
- [the Grand Erie District School Board](#)

Superintendent of Special Education Services
(519) 756-6301

PARENTS' GUIDE TO SPECIAL EDUCATION Identification, Placement and Review Committee



**GRAND ERIE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Exceptional Pupils and Special Programs

Who is an exceptional pupil?

The Education Act defines an exceptional pupil as “a pupil whose behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that he or she is considered to need placement in a special education program”.

Who decides that a pupil is exceptional?

The identification is made by a Board-appointed Identification, Placement and Review Committee. For ease of reference this Committee is known as an I.P.R.C. They will

- identify if your child is an “exceptional pupil” based on the above categories.
- determine the placement or setting in which your child’s special education program will be delivered.
- review that placement at least once a year.

What is a special education program?

A special education program is a program that

- is based on and modified by the results of continuous assessment and evaluation.
- includes an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) containing specific objectives and an outline of educational services that meet the needs of the exceptional pupil.

What placements are offered?

Special education programs are designed for the individual and will be carried out in the regular classroom setting with special services brought to the child. At times, the student may be withdrawn for part of the day. A small percentage of exceptional pupils may require specialized class settings on a full or part-time basis.

How is an IPRC requested?

The principal of your child’s school

- must request an I.P.R.C. meeting for your child upon receiving your written request;
- may, with written notice to you, refer your child to an I.P.R.C. when the principal and the child’s teacher(s) believe that your child may benefit from a special education program.

Within 15 days of receiving your request, or giving you notice, the principal must provide you with a copy of this guide and a written statement of approximately when the I.P.R.C. will meet.

May parents attend the IPRC meeting?

Regulation 181/98 entitles parents and pupils, 16 years of age or older, to be present at and participate in all Committee discussions about your child, and to be present when the Committee’s identification and placement decisions are made.

Who else may attend an IPRC meeting?

- the principal of your child’s school;
- other resource people such as your child’s teacher, special education staff, board support staff or the representative of an agency who may provide further information or clarification;
- your representative, that is, a person who may support you or speak on behalf of you or your child;
- an interpreter, if one is required.

What information will parents receive about the IPRC meeting?

At least 10 days prior to the meeting, the Chair of the I.P.R.C. will provide you with written notification of the date, time and place of the meeting and an invitation to attend. You are an important partner in considering your child’s placement. This letter will also ask you to indicate whether or not you will attend.

Before the I.P.R.C. meeting occurs, you will receive a written copy of any information about your child that the Chair of the I.P.R.C. has received. This may include the results of assessments or a summary of information.

What happens at an I.P.R.C. meeting?

The Chair introduces everyone and explains the purpose of the meeting. The Committee will review all available information about your child and may discuss any proposal that has been made about a special education program or special education services for the child.

You are encouraged to ask questions and join in the discussion. Following the discussion, after all the information has been presented and considered, the Committee will make its decisions.

What will the I.P.R.C.’s written statement of decision include?

- whether the I.P.R.C. has identified your child as “exceptional”;
- the categories and definitions of any exceptionalities identified;
- a description of your child’s strengths and needs;
- the I.P.R.C. placement decision;
- the I.P.R.C.’s recommendations, if any, regarding a special education program and special education services
- the reasons for the decision that the pupil should be placed in a special education class, if applicable.

What happens after the I.P.R.C. has made its decision?

If you agree with the I.P.R.C. decision, you will be asked to indicate, by signing your name, that you agree with the identification and placement decisions.

Ministry of Education Provincial and Demonstration Schools

The ministry operates provincial and demonstration schools throughout Ontario for deaf, blind, deaf-blind, and severely learning-disabled students, as well as those with attention deficit hyper-activity disorder (ADHD). Residential programs are offered at the schools Monday to Friday, for students who live too far from school to travel daily.

School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind

W. Ross Macdonald School

350 Brant Avenue
Brantford, ON N3T 3J9
(519) 759-0730

Schools for the Deaf

Ernest C. Drury School

255 Ontario Street, South
Milton, ON L9T 2M5
(905) 878-2851
TTY: (905) 878-7195

Robarts School

1090 Highbury Avenue
London, ON N5Y 4V9
(519) 453-4400 [TTY same]

Sir James Whitney School

350 Dundas Street, West
Belleville, ON K8P 1B2
(613) 967-2823 [TTY same]

Schools for Students with ADHD and Severe Learning Disabilities

Amethyst School

1090 Highbury Avenue
London, ON N5Y 4V9
(519) 443-4408

Schools for Students with ADHD and Severe Learning Disabilities (cont'd.)

Sagonaska School

350 Dundas Street, West
Belleville, ON K8P 1B2
(613) 967-2830

Trillium School

347 Ontario Street, South
Milton, ON L9T 3X9
(905) 878-8428

Centre Jules-Leger

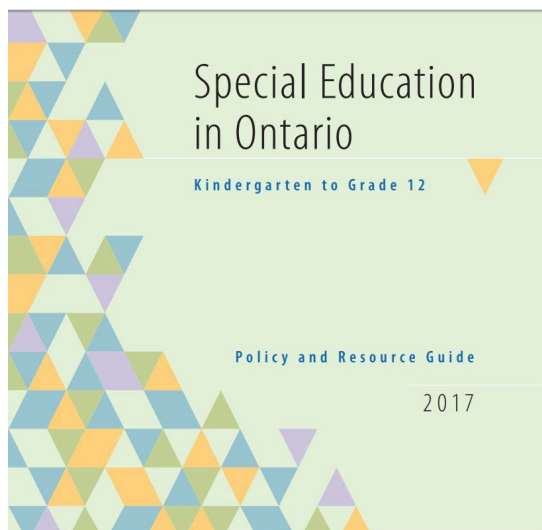
281 rue Lanark
Ottawa, ON K1Z 6R8
(613) 761-9300
TTY: (613) 761-9302 and 761-9304

Special Education Programs and Services provided by the Grand Erie District School Board

The Grand Erie District School Board provides a range of placement options for exceptional pupils including regular class placements and special education class placements. Special education classes providing a variety of appropriate programs for exceptional pupils are available.

Grand Erie District School Board Special Education Plan

Many organizations are available to support you in understanding the I.E.P. and/or to provide additional resources. The principal of your school can provide the names of the organizations that serve your area. This information is also available in the Special Education Advisory Committee's brochure, available at your local school. Resources for IEPs. Found on the Ministry of Education website.



www.edu.gov.on.ca

Grand Erie District School Board

Superintendent of Education – Special Education

519-756-6301 Ext 281122
519-754-1606 Ext 287214

Principal-Leader of Special Education

519-756-6301 Ext 287217

Program Coordinator of Special Education
Applied Behaviour Analysis Coordinator – Special Education

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (I.E.P.)

A Guide for Parents



Why Does a Student Have an IEP?

What is an I.E.P.?

A written plan that:

- Describes the special education programs and services your child needs to be successful.
- Lists your child's strengths and needs affecting his/her learning.
- Records supports and services that help your child learn and demonstrate learning.
- Identifies expectations that are changed (modified) from your child's age-appropriate grade level.
- Identifies alternative expectations in program areas that differ from the Ontario curriculum. (i.e. social skills, personal care etc.)
- Includes a transition plan for all students who have an IEP, whether identified as exceptional by an IPRC or not, for a variety of contexts that may include: entry to school, between grades, movement from elementary to secondary, movement from secondary to post-secondary, etc.

Every student who is identified as exceptional by an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) must have an I.E.P.

Students who are not formally identified as exceptional but who require a special education program and/or services have an I.E.P. when:

- The School's principal decides that the student will be assessed using modified expectations and/or
- The student regularly needs supports and services (accommodations) for instruction or assessment.

What is my role as a parent?

- Take part in developing the I.E.P. by providing up-to-date information about your child's strengths and needs.
- Practice skills at home that your child is learning at school.
- Share information about skills your child has learned at school and has transferred to home and the community.
- Maintain open communication with your child's school.
- Ask questions.

What can I expect from the school regarding the I.E.P.?

- A copy of the I.E.P. (within 30 school days of the initial IPRC, change of placement or placement in September).
- That the I.E.P. is written in clear, plain language.
- Ongoing participation in the I.E.P. process.
- Being informed of meeting times, and the topics to be discussed at your child's I.E.P. meetings.
- Regular communication from the school regarding your child's progress.
- That the I.E.P., as a working document is reviewed every reporting period.





Growing Excellence.....Inspiring Success

1

Name	DOB
School	Principal
Student OEN	School Year
Grade	SEA Equipment
Last IPRC/ Annual Review Date	Placement Start Date
Exceptionality	Date Annual Review Waived
IPRC Placement	Program/Class Type
Reasons for Developing an IEP	IEP Development Team
	Staff Member
	Position
Health Support Services	Sources Consulted in the Development of the IEP
	-Parent/Guardian or Student if 16+
Individualized Equipment	SEA Equipment
	Educational Assessments
Type	Date
	Summary of Results
	Clinical Assessments
Type	Date
	Summary of Results
AREAS OF STRENGTH	AREAS OF NEED



(Working Copy) Printed:

**Subject / Courses or Alternative Program**

AC (Accommodated) - changes in teaching, classroom / school environment, assessment methods

MOD (Modified Curriculum) - changes in grade level expectations or changes in number and/or complexity of expectations

AIT (Alternative Program) - areas of learning other than the Ontario Curriculum

Human Resources (Teaching / Non Teaching Support Staff)					
Type	Position	Start Date	Intensity	Frequency	Location
Exemption	Elementary Program Exemptions/	Secondary Compulsory Course Substitutions	Substitution	Reasons	

Permitted Accommodations (As Part Of Regular Classroom Practice)	Provincial Assessments Exemptions
---	--------------------------------------

Secondary School Goal (For Secondary Students Only)

Student is currently working toward the attainment of a:

Successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course is a requirement of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.



Accommodations

Exceptionality: -No exceptionality specified

Purpose Adapt the program for the student - Reflect what is different from what is normally provided for other students in the class - Do not alter the provincial learning expectations - are assumed to be common to all subjects, courses, skill areas unless otherwise indicated

Instructional Accommodations

Environmental Accommodations

Assessment Accommodations

IEP Completion And Reporting

Date of IEP completion Reporting Dates

Reporting Format

This IEP also includes (check if applicable)

☐

Annual program goals and learning expectations for modified subjects/courses or alternative program.

☐

A transition plan



Transition Plan



Parent/Student Consultation and Staff Review and IEP Updating



CONSENT FOR DISCLOSURE AND COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

Name of

Student

School:

Date of

Birth:

(DD MMM

YYYY)

I/We the undersigned, authorize the Grand Erie District School Board to:

Release the following information

To

Obtain the following information

From

For use by such officers or employees of the Board who may need the personal information in the performance of their duties or for the purpose of complying with the Act of the Legislature or in Act of Parliament or a Law Enforcement Agency in Canada to aid a current or potential investigation undertaken with a view to a law enforcement proceeding.

Parent/Guardian:

Student (if applicable)

Witnessed by:

Date:

This form will be kept as a record under the authority of the Education Act, R.S.O., 1990, c.E.2 AND the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for the purposes of the education of students. This form will be retained in the student's Ontario School Record and/or relevant Student Support Services Provider file. Questions about the collection should be directed to the school principal or Superintendent of Education.

Filed in OSR – Consent Folder

Retention: E+1 (E = resolution of issue)