

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**June 2019**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) SEAC Circular is published 5 times a year, in September, November, February, April and June.

The following are some topics that your SEAC should be looking at. Action items and/or recommendations for effective practices will be underlined.

Feel free to share any of this information or the attachments with other SEAC members. As always, when you are planning to introduce a motion for the consideration of SEAC, it is particularly important that you share all related background items with your fellow SEAC reps.

**The topics covered by this SEAC Circular:**

1. Special Education funding for 2019-20

2. MACSE Update

3. Exclusions

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

**1.** Special Education Funding Guide 2019-20

2. 2019-20 Special Education Grant Memo

3. Enrolment Register Instructions 2018-19

 **Note:** You can access the SEAC Circular and supplementary materials at
[www.ldao.ca/about/public-policy-advocacy/seac-circulars/](http://www.ldao.ca/about/public-policy-advocacy/seac-circulars/).

You can access Ministry memos by date at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/> (Note: general memos have not been posted since July 2018, although some more recent funding B and SB memos are posted)

**1. Special Education funding for 2019-20**

Most special education funding comes in the **Special Education Grant** under the **Grants for Student Needs (GSN).** However, funding for some aspects of special education is covered as part of the **Pupil Foundation Grant**.

Detailed information on **Grants for Student Needs** can be found in 2019-20 Funding [Technical Paper 2019-20](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1920/TechnicalPaper2019-20.pdf) and a summary of changes in the [2019-20 GSN Funding memo](https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2019/B14_EN.pdf).

An outline of the **Special Education Grant** structure can be found in the [2019-20 Education Funding: A Guide to the Special Education Grant](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1920/SpecialEducationGuide2019-20.pdf) and more details in the [2019-20 Special Education Grant memo](https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/SB2019/SB07_EN_Final.pdf)

There have not been many changes to special education funding, but below are some items of interest:

**Multi-Disciplinary Supports Amount (under DIFFERENTIATED SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AMOUNT (DSENA) ALLOCATION)**

The Multi-Disciplinary Supports Amount is intended to support all students with special education needs, including subsets of this population such as students with ASD, and other needs such as mental health. The Multi-Disciplinary Supports Amount includes the following components:

**Multi-Disciplinary Team Component**

Funding is provided for a multi-disciplinary team for all boards (up to four additional FTEs per school board), which will help to build board capacity, support special education assessments and help teachers, educational assistants, and other staff better understand and adapt to the unique needs of their students.

Boards will generate funding for the multi-disciplinary team component based on the number of multi-disciplinary team members, up to a maximum of four.

**Other Staffing Resources Component**

Funding is provided for other staffing resources to support students with special education needs.

2019-20 Multi-Disciplinary Supports amount - $51.3 million

* Multi-disciplinary Team component -$28.6 million
* Other Staffing Resources component -$22.7 million

SEACs can ask how their board is planning to apply for and use **Multi-Disciplinary Supports Amount** funding.

 **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AMOUNT (SEA) ALLOCATION**

The SEA Allocation is projected to be $123.4 million in 2019–20.

**SPECIAL INCIDENCE PORTION (SIP) ALLOCATION**

For the 2019-20 school year the maximum SIP amount per eligible claim will increase by 1 per cent over 2018-19 from $27,405 to $27,679. The SIP Allocation is projected to be $126.1 million in 2019–20.

**BEHAVIOUR EXPERTISE AMOUNT (BEA) ALLOCATION**

The BEA allocation provides funding for school boards to hire board-level Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) expertise professionals, including Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBAs), and to provide training opportunities that will build school board capacity in ABA. ***The ministry is investing an additional $15.2 million in the Behaviour Expertise Amount allocation, an increase of approximately one hundred per cent over the 2018–19 school year. This is the only major increase in special education funding.***

The 2019–20 BEA allocation will have two components:

* Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Expertise Professionals Amount - $24.5 million, and
* ABA Training Amount - $6 million.

**Additional special education funding** is contained in the new **Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF).** You can read more details in the [2019-20 Priorities & Partnerships Fund memo](https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2019/B15_EN_Final.pdf).

The **Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF)** replaces the previous **Education Programs – Other** funding. Under Special Education are listed:

* *After School Skills Development Program ($6.1M)*
* *Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with ASD ($0.374M)*
* *Transition Pilot for Students with Developmental Disabilities ($0.478M)*
* *Supporting Students with Severe Learning Disabilities (LD) in Reading through LD Pilots ($1.75M)*: Funding to support an intensive reading intervention pilot project in eight district school boards. Pilots were designed to enhance educators’ intervention pilot project in eight district (LD) and increase the availability of supports for students with LD in their local communities.

What is **not** contained in the PPF, which was in the 2018-19 EPO funding, is the following:

R. Supporting Special Education Assessments ($20.0M): Over the next three school years, the ministry is providing approximately $125 million in application-based EPO funding to address current waitlists for assessments, beginning with a projected $20 million in 2018-19.

This specific funding for special education assessments does not continue beyond the 2018-19 school year, although the **Multi-Disciplinary Team Component** funding can be used for assessments.

**2. MACSE Update**

MACSE will reconvene to meet on June 11 & 12, 2019. With the resumption of Council meetings in June 2019, the ministry will resume production of the *Special Education Update*.

MACSE’s mandate continues to be to advise the Minister on any matter related to the establishment and provision of special education programs and special education services. There are now 11 vacancies on the Council and applications received through the Public Appointments Secretariat (PAS) are currently being assessed.

When new calls for applications are issued, stakeholders are invited to make their communities aware of the opportunity for individuals to put their names forward for consideration through the PAS on-line application process (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/public-appointments>).

 **3. Exclusions**

There is now an Exclusion section under absences in the *Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools, 2018-19 School Year*, page 24 to 25 (see attachment). It refers to Education Act Section 265 (1m) - about "refusal to admit". On page 25 it says boards must keep *"Data on the number of students who have been excluded during the school year (including the name of student, OEN, length of exclusion, and reason for exclusion).*" During the exclusion period, the pupil’s absence is recorded with a “G” on the Daily Attendance Record. This is the same category as for suspensions, expulsions and some other types of absences.

Since school boards are expected to keep data specifically on the number of students excluded, (although they only have to submit totals of all absences under the “G” category to the Ministry) SEACs can ask to get copies of their board’s exclusion data.

**Questions?** Email Diane Wagner at dianew@LDAO.ca