

LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

February 2009

The following are some topics that your SEAC should be looking at this month. As usual action items will be underlined, and summarized at the end. 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. IEP Initiatives
2. Survey on assessment methods
3. Review of Funding Processes
4. Special Education PA day
5. CODE Projects
6. Parent Podcasts
7. Provincial Auditor's Report
8. LDAO position on Educational Inclusion

List of Supplementary Materials:

1. Special Education Initiatives Memo Jan 09
2. Assessment Survey Jan 09
3. LDAO Policy Statement on Educational Inclusion
4. LDAO Policies on Integration

1. IEP Initiatives

As mentioned in the January Update, the Ministry has posted a read-only version of its **IEP template**, including pull down menus, for parents and students to look at. It can be accessed at <https://iep.edu.gov.on.ca/IEPWeb>

The user access is: **Username:** IEPDemo **Password:** demo

If your school board is using the Ministry IEP template, or a format that is similar, this site could be useful to parents or students who want to understand their IEP. For an explanation of the IEP development process, select **Explanatory Notes** at the top of Page One.

The **online workshop for parents and students** that LDAO has been developing, in collaboration with its Reference Committee will provide a more in-depth explanation of the various sections of the IEP. Watch for an announcement in the spring.

Six more **IEP Samples**, making a total of 12, have been posted on the CODE website (www.ontariodirectors.ca/IEP-PEI/index.html).

2. Survey on assessment methods

At the end of January the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch (SEPPB) distributed an electronic survey to all school boards to gather specific information on current methods used by school boards to assess the achievement of the very few numbers of students who are in programs where none of the student's learning expectations are derived from the Ontario curriculum. The completed survey must be submitted by Friday February 13, 2009. SEACs should ask for a copy of the survey information submitted by their board.

Copies of the Memo to Directors and of the survey are attached for your information.

3. Review of Funding Processes

SEPPB will be conducting a review of the **Special Incidence Portion** (SIP) and the **Special Equipment Amount** (SEA) allocations of the Ministry of Education's Special Education Grant (SEG). This review will assess the effectiveness of these funding models to support students with special education needs. It will include onsite visits to provide a better understanding of supports required by students for whom SIP and SEA funding claims were submitted by school boards (12 boards in January and February, and more in the following months). SEACs should ask to be notified if their board is one of those reviewed.

4. Special Education PA day

The Ministry of Education has posted a series of presentations which are available to be used for Special Education PA days, at www.ontariodirectors.ca/PA_Day-Spec_Ed/index.html. The sequential series of four slide decks are designed to support educators who work with all students as well as those students who may require an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and to build towards the implementation of the *Learning for All K – 12* resource document. The presentations are titled: *Knowing Your Student*, *Individual Education Plans (IEPs) 101*; *Developing More Effective IEPs*; and *Collaborating for Better IEPs*.

SEACs should ask for their board's plans for use of the presentations.

5. CODE Projects

The **CODE Special Education Summit**, November 17-18, 2008 presented some very interesting findings, especially on the use of assistive technologies.

Read about individual board CODE projects in the first two editions of the **CODE Chronicles**: www.ontariodirectors.ca/pages/CODE_Chronicles/archive.html

6. Parent Podcasts

The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat has produced video podcasts for parents on the **abc123** website at www.ontario.ca/abc123. The **abc123** website also has tip sheets and guides in 14 languages to help parents with children from preschool to Grade 6 with reading, writing and math.

7. Provincial Auditor's Report

A reminder that you can read the report of the Provincial Auditor on Special Education at www.auditor.on.ca/en/reports_en/en08/314en08.pdf, and that LDAO will be preparing a response.

8. LDAO position on Educational Inclusion

In November 2008 the LDAO Board of Directors formally adopted the LDA of Canada Policy Statement on Educational Inclusion (see attached document). This statement is in line with various policies on integration in the LDAO Public Policy Manual, 2002 (also attached). LDAO SEAC reps are asked to share the LDAO Policy Statement of Educational Inclusion with their SEACs.

ACTION ITEMS:

- SEACs should ask for a copy of the survey information on assessment methods submitted by their board to the Ministry of Education.
- SEACs should ask to be notified if their board's SIP and SEA funding processes are being reviewed by the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch.
- SEACs should ask their board how it plans to use the presentations posted on the CODE site for professional development.
- LDAO SEAC reps are asked to share the *LDAO Policy Statement on Educational Inclusion* with their SEACs.

Questions?

E-mail: Diane Wagner at dianew@ldao.ca or call (416) 929-4311 Ex. 22
FAX: 416-929-3905.