

# LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

**April 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. Special Education budget planning
2. Shared Solutions PD materials and survey
3. Student Achievement Symposium
4. IEP Resource Project for Parents and Students
5. Student Success materials

## **List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. Special Education Funding Memo Mar 09
2. Shared Solutions Memo Mar 09
3. Shared Solutions Survey Mar 09

### **1. Special Education budget planning**

April and May are months for planning and reviewing your board's special education budget.

In Memos to Directors and other communication to school boards, the Ministry has said that its funding for special education in 2009-10 will:

- provide funding stability for school boards by maintaining 95 percent of the school boards' High Needs Amount (HNA) allocation unchanged;
- introduce measures of variability (MOV) as part (5 percent) of the HNA allocation to better reflect the variability of high needs students among school boards.
- continue to support the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) and Special Education Amount (SEA) claim-based applications; and
- stabilize support for education programs for school-aged children/youth in government approved care and/or treatment, custody and correctional facilities.

There have been changes to the **High Needs Amount (HNA)**, which for the last few years has been kept at previous levels for boards with declining enrolment:

“To move in the direction recommended by the Special Education Working Table, Measures of Variability (MOV) will be introduced to better reflect the variability of high needs students across boards. The MOV, which is based on data of the prevalence of special education programs and services, participation and achievement in EQAO assessments by students with special education needs, board size, and rural status, will be used to allocate 5% of HNA funding.”

The attached Memo to Directors on Special Education Funding, issued on March 30<sup>th</sup> by Barry Finlay, was cc'd to SEACs, so you should receive it at a SEAC meeting. In this memo, Barry Finlay explains that the process for determining the MOV amount is complex and involves 17 factors. These factors and information about the weighing of them are provided in the Education Funding Technical Paper, 2009-10.

SEACs should ask for a presentation on their board's process for setting their Special Education Budget, including information on the changes to the process for determining the HNA and MOV.

## **2. Shared Solutions PD materials and survey**

As outlined in the attached Memo to Directors sent on March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Education has compiled all the training materials from the 2007 regional professional development sessions, including a video of the speakers and a parent/student video, onto a CD-ROM/DVD. This CD-ROM/DVD combination is being provided to all school boards to add to their professional development around dispute resolution. For ease of distribution the content can be easily copied to another disk, or transferred from the CD-ROM to a PC or laptop, and can be emailed to school board staff, Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) and parents, as required.

A survey was sent by email to school boards in early April 2009 about the impact of *Shared Solutions* on prevention and resolution of conflicts regarding programs and services for students with special education needs. The survey was to be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup>. A PDF copy of the survey is attached.

With such a short time line, SEACs may not have been consulted for the survey, but SEACs should ask for a copy of the submitted survey, and also for copies of the Shared Solutions PD materials.

## **3. Student Achievement Symposium**

School board School Effectiveness Leads and Student Success Leaders were invited by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat to a Student Achievement Symposium on May 5-6, 2009. The symposium will focus on working more effectively to improve student achievement in grades K – 12. As special education should be an integral part of this process, SEACs should ask for a presentation from the delegates to the symposium.

#### **4. IEP Resource Project for Parents and Students**

This online workshop for parents and students is almost ready! Watch for it in May on the LDAO website ([www.LDAO.ca](http://www.LDAO.ca)). Many thanks to the Ministry of Education for funding this project, and to the parent organizations on the Reference Committee for their ideas and contributions.

#### **5. Student Success materials**

There is information on Student Success on the following websites:  
[www.Ontario.ca/MoreStudentSuccess](http://www.Ontario.ca/MoreStudentSuccess) and [www.Ontario.ca/PlusdeReussitedesEleves](http://www.Ontario.ca/PlusdeReussitedesEleves).

Visitors to the site can:

- Sign up to receive the latest about Ontario's high school programs
- Order a copy of the brochure *More ways to succeed in high school* or download a PDF
- Download the *Student Success Credit Tracker*
- Download a fact sheet on graduation requirements
- Find more resources to help their child succeed in high school

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- SEACs should ask for a presentation on their board's process for setting their Special Education Budget, including information on the changes to the process for determining the High Needs Amount (HNA) and the Measures of Variability (MOV).
- SEACs should ask for a copy of the *Shared Solutions* survey submitted by their board to the Ministry and also for copies of the *Shared Solutions* PD materials.
- SEACs should ask for a presentation from school board delegates to the Student Achievement Symposium.

#### **Questions?**

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