

LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

November 2009

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 in the next couple of months. 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. SEAC Effectiveness Survey
2. IEP initiatives
3. Learning for All
4. Shared Solutions Survey Results
5. New P/PM on Partnerships with External Agencies
6. Changes to Safe Schools P/PMs

List of Supplementary Materials:

1. Special Education Update October 2009
2. Shared Solutions English Language Board Survey Results.

1. SEAC Effectiveness Survey

As I mentioned in the September SEAC Circular, PAAC on SEAC has put together a survey for SEAC members and alternates -- to get a picture of how well SEACs around the province are functioning. The survey will be ready to complete online on Monday November 9th, and we encourage every SEAC member of a parent association to complete it by December 1st.

There are spaces for comments under each question so we would like to hear your opinions as well. [PAAC on SEAC Survey of SEAC Effectiveness](#)

2. IEP initiatives

The free online workshop **IEP 101 for Parents and Students** is up and ready for anyone who wants to understand more about Individual Education Plans. You can register as a participant, or log on as a guest, at <http://ldaolearning.ca>. Please publicize information about this workshop widely.

The French version is ready to be put on the website and will be available soon. Thank you to the Ministry of Education for funding this project, and to the Reference Committee members who provided much input.

More IEP Samples have been posted on the CODE website, including one for a secondary student with learning disabilities and a second elementary LD IEP. You can view them at www.ontariodirectors.ca/IEP-PEI/index.html. I encourage you to take the opportunity to provide your comments via the link on the website and to send me a copy of your comments and concerns.

3. Learning for All

A draft version of **Learning for All** is now up on the CODE website, at www.ontariodirectors.ca/L4All/L4A_en.html along with sample class and student profiles.

4. Shared Solutions Survey Results

In October Directors of Education received a copy of **Shared Solutions English Language Board Survey Results**, which is attached to this SEAC Circular for your information. In the April SEAC Survey SEAC members were advised to request a copy of the survey results submitted by their school board to the Ministry. SEACs should look at those results in comparison to the attached summary results.

5. New P/PM on Partnerships with External Agencies

In September School Boards were advised about a new **P/PM 149, Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals**, www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/149.html.

School boards are required to develop a protocol or revise any existing protocol to support the school board's capacity to provide programs and services to all students, including students with special needs. Protocols will outline:

- programs and services that are currently delivered by external agencies
- programs and services that are currently delivered by school board professional student services personnel (PSSP) and paraprofessionals
- programs and services that could be delivered by school board PSSP and paraprofessionals, but are not being delivered by them for financial reasons or because requirements do not match the job descriptions or qualifications of board PSSP and/or paraprofessionals.

School boards must implement their newly developed or reviewed protocol and post it on their website by January 1, 2010.

Since professional services are very important to students with special education needs, SEACs should be consulted about the development of their board's protocols.

6. Changes to Safe Schools PPMs

On February 1, 2010 changes to the Education Act come in to effect that amend the safe Schools provisions to require:

- all school staff to report serious student incidents to the principal
- principals to contact the parents of victims who have been harmed as a result of serious student incidents
- staff to respond to incidents that have a negative impact of the school climate, including incidents of sexual and gender-based bullying or homophobia.

School boards must have appropriate policies and guidelines in place, based on Ministry policy, by February 1, 2010. SEACs should ask to be consulted about the development of these policies and guidelines.

The Ministry has revised two of its Policy and Program Memoranda to reflect changes to the legislation, P/PM 144, Bullying Prevention and Intervention, and P/PM 145, Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour:

www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/144.html

www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/145.html

Note this clarification for principals in the new version of P/PM 145:

"In Part X of the Education Act, clause 265(1)(m) permits a principal to "refuse to admit" to the school or to a class someone whose presence in the school would be "detrimental to the physical or mental well being of the pupils". This provision is frequently referred to as the "exclusion provision". **Exclusion is not to be used as a form of discipline.** If a principal does decide that it is necessary to exclude a student from the school, he or she is expected to notify the student's parents of the exclusion as soon as possible in the circumstances, and to inform them of their right to appeal under clause 265(1)(m)." (**bolding** added).

ACTION ITEMS

- Complete online SEAC Effectiveness Survey after November 9th, by December 1st.
- Publicize information about the online workshop **IEP 101 for Parents and Students.**
- Comment on new IEP samples posted on CODE website.
- Compare the Ministry summary of Shared Solutions Survey Results with the survey information submitted by your school board.

- Ask for a presentation to SEAC on the development or revision of your school board protocol on partnerships with external agencies.
- Ask for a presentation to SEAC on your board's plans for developing its Safe Schools policies and guidelines in line with the revised P/PM 144 and 145.

Questions?

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