

# LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

**September 2009**

I hope that you all had a good summer and that you are ready to welcome the new school year.

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 Planning
2. SEAC Effectiveness Survey
3. IEP initiatives
4. Learning for All
5. EQAO Results
6. Secondary Policy and Program Update
7. Inclusive Education
8. Resource Services Library
9. Recent LDAO legislative responses

## **List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. PAAC on SEAC Calendar 09-10
2. Resource Services Library
2. LDAO Response to the 2008 Auditor General Report on Special Education

### 3. LDAO Submission on Provincial Interest Regulation Consultation Paper

#### 1. SEAC Planning

This is the time of year for SEACs to set a yearly agenda, or finalize an agenda if one was set in June. To help with this process, an updated PAAC on SEAC calendar is attached with an overview of topics to be addressed over the coming academic year.

#### 2. SEAC Effectiveness Survey

PAAC on SEAC has put together a survey for SEAC members and alternates -- we are trying to get a picture of how well SEACs around the province are functioning . The survey is being put into an electronic format that can be answered on line, and will be distributed through PAAC provincial associations in mid October.

#### 3. IEP initiatives

Information on how to access the online workshop, **IEP 101 for Parents and Students**, will be distributed once the French version is up on the workshop website.

#### 4. Learning for All

The new Ministry of Education resource document, *Learning for All*, will be posted on the website of the Council for Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) in the near future:

[www.ontariodirectors.ca/](http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/)

#### 5. EQAO Results

EQAO has released composite charts for achievement on the Grades 3, 6 and 9 provincial tests over the past 5 academic years:

[www.eqao.com/pdf\\_e/09/FactSheet\\_PJ9e\\_2009web.pdf](http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/09/FactSheet_PJ9e_2009web.pdf)

There are several pages of results for students with special education needs (excluding Gifted).

#### 6. Secondary Policy and Program Update

The Ministry of Education has released an *Education Policy and Program Update* that outlines all the changes to secondary school policy, programs and curriculum since the 1999 *Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements*.

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/curricul/secondary/oss/epp.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/curricul/secondary/oss/epp.pdf)

This is a very useful resource in gathering together information that has been released a bit at a time over the last ten years, including references to the appropriate Policy/Program Memoranda (PPMs).

## 7. Inclusive Education

The Ministry of Education now has an Inclusive Education Unit, under the Instruction and Leadership Development Division. A Memo to Directors on September 10, 2009 from Ruth Flynn, Director of the new unit, advised Directors of Education of upcoming training in Inclusive Education and Safe Schools. Over the next year school boards are being asked to review and/or develop, implement and monitor an *equity and inclusive education policy*. Inclusive education is defined as “education that is based on the principles of acceptance and inclusion of all students” and promotes an environment where “diversity is honoured and all individuals are respected.” Diversity in this context is widely defined, but includes students with special education needs.

(It should be noted that the Ministry use of the term *Inclusive Education* is not the same as the policy of educational inclusion espoused by some organizations which believe that all students must be educated in regular classrooms. LDAO SEAC representatives need to be aware of the LDAO position on educational inclusion:

[www.ldao.ca/aboutLDs/news\\_full.php?id=123](http://www.ldao.ca/aboutLDs/news_full.php?id=123))

Information on the Ministry Equity and Inclusive Education strategy can be found at:

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/equity.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/equity.html)

SEACs should ask for a presentation about the development of their board’s equity and inclusive education strategy, and ask to be consulted about aspects that relate to students with special education needs.

## 8. Resource Services Library

This would be a good time to remind parents and teachers about the Resource Services Library, where books can be ordered in alternative formats (including electronic) for students who have print disabilities. Both parents and teachers can search the online catalogue of the books that have already been transcribed into alternate formats, but the registering of a student and the ordering must be done through the school. A description is attached.

## 9. Recent LDAO legislative responses

The LDAO Legislation & Policy Committee has developed and submitted a response to the 2008 Report of the Auditor General on Special Education, and a submission on the Provincial Interest Regulation consultation. Both are attached for your information. These documents and LDAO responses to two mental health consultations will be placed with other policy documents in the Public Policy section of the LDAO website ([www.ldao.ca/aboutLDs/legislation.php](http://www.ldao.ca/aboutLDs/legislation.php)).

## ACTION ITEMS

- Use the PAAC on SEAC Calendar to set or review a yearly SEAC calendar

- Ask for a presentation about the development of your board's equity and inclusive education strategy, and ask to be consulted about aspects that relate to students with special education needs.
- Remind parents and students about the Resource Services Library

### **Questions?**

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