

LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

September 2008

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

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. SEAC Planning
2. OPA Assessment Project
3. Education for All
4. Dedicated PA day
5. IEP Initiatives
6. CODE Projects
7. EQAO Results
8. Training opportunities

List of Supplementary Materials:

1. PAAC on SEAC Calendar 08-09
2. Highlights of 07 08 EQAO Results
3. EQAO Trends 07 08
4. VOICE SEAC Registration Form 2008

1. SEAC Planning

This is the time for SEACs to plan their meetings for the coming year, so I have attached a revised PAAC on SEAC calendar, outlining, month by month, the items that you should consider for your agendas.

2. OPA Assessment Project

On October 15th a few representatives from your board should be attending a conference, *Sharing Promising Practices*, showcasing outcomes of the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) Student Assessment Project. A *Promising Practices* Guide will also be released at that time. Ask for a presentation to your SEAC on this conference and for a copy of the *Promising Practices* guide

3. Education for All

As mentioned in the June SEAC Circular, consultations took place on the expansion and revision of *Education for All* to a new K to 12 Ministry of Education resource document. A writing team has been working over the summer on a preliminary draft, and the final version should be released early in 2009. Regional training sessions will follow the release.

4. Dedicated PA day

In April 2008 a memo was sent to Directors of Education strongly recommending that boards devote one of the six 2008-09 PA days to special education issues. Most boards have chosen to use a date in the 2009 portion of the year, and the Ministry is encouraging them to focus on IEPs and to use the materials to be released around the revision of *Education for All*. SEACs should ask to be included in the planning of the special education PA day. A presentation on the role of SEAC could be offered as part of the training, or some materials on SEAC's role could be distributed.

5. IEP Initiatives

Over the summer the Ministry has been developing sample IEPs for students with a range of special education needs, in both elementary and secondary settings. School boards had been asked to send in anonymous samples, and a team of knowledgeable educators used these samples and sharing of their own experience to write a set of samples that reflect all exceptionalities. The first set of these will be sent to boards and then posted electronically, in time for IEP season. The plan is for parents to have access as well. The samples are a work in progress, and there will be additions and changes with time. SEACs should ask to see the Memo to Directors that announces the IEP Samples when it comes out.

LDAO and the parent associations on the Reference Committee continue to work on producing the content for the Ministry-funded *IEP Resource for Parents and Students*. This project, which will create an online training resource, is slated for completion by the end of March 2009,

6. CODE Projects

The professional development projects funded through the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) have finished their funding cycle. A research report will be posted in November on the CODE website (www.ontariodirectors.ca). There will also be a *CODE "Education for All" Leadership Summit* on November 17 & 18, 2008. Boards will be able to send a small number of delegates, which may include SEAC members. Ask if your board plans to send a SEAC member.

7. EQAO Results

The Education Quality & Accountability Office (EQAO) has released summaries of results of provincial assessments in 2007-08 for Grades 3, 6 and 9. A summary for all students, and charts for students with special education needs are attached. You can read more results at: www.eqao.com/pdf_e/08/FactsSheets_EN.pdf
The school board results are not up on the website yet.

Results for the OSSLT for 2007-08 can be viewed at:
<http://www.eqao.com/results/results.aspx?grade=10&year=2007&Lang=E&submit=View+Results>

8. Training opportunities

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children is offering a *SEAC Workshop* on Saturday, November 8, 2008, 9:00 - 4:30 at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, Ontario. SEAC reps who are not VOICE members are welcome to attend for a fee of \$50. A registration form is attached.

LDAO SEAC reps and alternates will be offered online SEAC training in early 2009.

ACTION ITEMS

- Planning for the coming SEAC year
- Ask for a presentation to your SEAC on the *Sharing Promising Practices* OPA Project conference and for a copy of the Promising Practices guide
- SEACs should ask to be included in the planning of the special education PA day. A presentation on the role of SEAC could be offered as part of the training, or some materials on SEAC's role could be distributed
- SEACs should ask to see the Memo to Directors that announces the IEP Samples when it comes out

- Ask if your board plans to send a SEAC member to the *CODE "Education for All" Leadership Summit* , to take place November 17 & 18, 2008

Questions?

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