

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**April 2017**

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. Action items and/or recommendations for effective practices will be underlined.

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 Process

2. Special Needs Strategy Update

3. MACSE meeting information

4. Survey on technology in the classroom, for students, parents and educators

5. New LD@home website

6. Educators’ Institute

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. Special Education Grant excerpt

2. PAAC on SEAC Resource Guide on Special Education Funding

3. Next Steps for Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services memo

4. MACSE meeting highlights

5. LD@home flyer

6. Educators’ Institute flyer

**Note:** You can access the SEAC Circular and supplementary materials at
[www.ldao.ca/about/public-policy-advocacy/seac-circulars/](http://www.ldao.ca/about/public-policy-advocacy/seac-circulars/).

You can access Ministry memos by date at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/>

 **1. Special Education Budget Process**

On April 12, 2017, the Ministry released the **2017-18 Grants for Student Needs Funding**, subject to regulations made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council under the Education Act, (Memorandum 2017 B04: [Grants for Student Needs Funding for 2017-18](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1718/B04_memo_2017_18_gsn_en.pdf) (PDF, 231 KB). The memo announced some changes in funding, including the **Local Priorities Fund:**

The ministry has agreed to establish a Local Priorities Fund (LPF) of $218.9 million in 2017-18 to address a range of priorities including more special education staffing to support children in need, "at-risk" students and adult education. These funds could support about 875 full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers and about 1,600 to 1,830 FTE education workers. Actual staffing will vary depending on specific agreements, local discussions and compensation specific to each board, as well as job security provisions, such as staffing reductions related to declining enrolment and other exceptions.

The following Ministry documents will give your SEAC information to inform your discussion of your special education budget. I have attached for your convenience an excerpt from the Technical Paper, containing the information on the **Special Education Grant.**

**Ministry Funding Publications** ([www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/funding.html))

Funding [Technical Paper 2017-18](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1718/2017_18_technical_paper_en.pdf) (PDF, 1.82 MB)
Details of Education Grants (including Special Education Grant)

[School Board Funding Projections for the 2017-18 School Year](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1718/2017_18_gsn_school_board_projections_en.pdf) (PDF, 1.82 MB)

Memorandum 2017 B03: [2017-18 School Year Education Programs – Other (EPO) Funding](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1718/B03_memo_2017_18_epo_funding_en.pdf) (PDF, 506 KB)
Other funding envelopes not included in Education Grants (e.g. Autism Supports & Training; Well-Being: Safe, Accepting & Healthy Schools and Mental Health). Includes school board allocations.

2017-18 Education Funding: [A Guide to the Grants for Student Needs](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/1718/2017_18_guide_grant_student_needs_en.pdf) (PDF, 1.76 MB)
A plain language guide useful for SEAC members and parents.

**PAAC on SEAC Resource Guide**

PAAC on SEAC has become aware that several SEACs have contacted the Ministry of Education about concerns to do with special education funding. In some cases, SEACs may not be clear about the way special education funding is related to school board funding. Education funding is very complex, so to help with some of the considerations, PAAC has put together the attached **PAAC on SEAC Resource Guide on Special Education Funding**
Please share it with your fellow SEAC members and refer to it in SEAC discussions about the Special Education budget

SEACs should ask for a presentation on special education funding in their board, including any plans to use the new Local Priorities Fund. SEACs should be involved early on in the process of developing their board’s Special Education budget.

 **2. Special Needs Strategy Update**

There has been a series of Memos from the provincial government about the Special Needs Strategy for Integrated Rehabilitation, and I have attached the main Memo from the Assistant Deputy Ministers of the ministries involved in the strategy.  The key elements are:

* Transfer of Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT)  and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) funds from CCAC School Health Support Program to Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) on April 1st 2017
* Transfer of any hospital funds for preschool speech and language services to MCYS on April 1st, 2017
* All current service contracts for CCAC services to remain till fall 2018, when transition to community selected providers will start to occur.  MCYS will contract with CCAC/Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN) from April 1, 2017 until implementation of local proposals in fall 2018
* All local planning committees to review their proposals in light of changes and submit final proposal and implementation plan by December 2017
* Planning committees to broaden community consultation on final proposals and implementation plans with community members, including service providers, sub-contracters with CCAC, unions/federations, and others
* CCAC and hospital funds to transfer to community proposal providers in Fall 2018 in time for start of school year
* PPM 81 and related Interministerial Guidelines for speech and language under revision to support changes for special needs strategy, and the integrated delivery of speech and language services
* Webinar on March 29th to provide direction to steering committees
* Ministries have provided a communication template and FAQ to use to contact all families currently getting services (OT, PT And SLP) by April 30th, 2017

From a SEAC perspective, this means that local work on the proposals for integration of rehabilitation services will re-commence and there will be a broader consultation on the proposal and implementation plan.  SEACs have been identified as a group that should be consulted, so SEACs can ask their school board what plans there are for this consultation.

 **3. MACSE meeting information**

The Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) met on February 8 & 9, 2017. Highlights of the meeting are attached. Note in particular:

* EQAO remains committed to moving from paper to computer-based assessments, but in light of the cyber-attack that disrupted the October 2016 OSSLT assessment, it has been decided to administer the March 2017 OSSLT on paper.
* Since 2005, the ministry has posted annual suspension and expulsion data on its website: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/statistics.html>. The method of reporting has been refined to use student enrolment data from the full year, rather than only as of October. Previously only students with an IPRC or an IEP were included. Going forward, all students receiving special education supports and services will be included.
* Highlights of last year’s public consultation on provincial and demonstration schools were reviewed and information on next steps was provided, including the three-year intensive reading intervention pilots and establishment of a supporting reference group.
(Note: LDAO is represented on the reference group)

**4. Survey on technology in the classroom, for students, parents and educators**

The Special Needs Opportunity Window (SNOW) is conducting a research project to identify the current trends in technology-supported education and the needs of educators, students and parents on effectively using technology for inclusive learning practices. This research study is being done to help guide the development of new resources on the SNOW website, to make sure that its content is relevant and up-to-date.

SNOW, which is a branch of the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD University, is an online resource which provides information and knowledge to educators, parents and students with exceptionality on technology use and inclusive practices, both in and out of the classroom. For [more information about the study, please follow this link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12RxWcJQBEplxmEpuwL69r-eL7aHQazN5OdkNRXy_wfQ/edit)

Students, parents and educators can participate in this study by completing a 10-15 minute online survey **by April 21st, 2017**. After completing this survey, you will have the option to enter into a draw to win one of four $25 gift certificates to Indigo. The researchers will also be running focus groups – if you are interested in participating in a focus group, there will be the option to fill in your name at the end of the survey. Link to Survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/3YeekYbE1oDHKtFf2>

**5. New LD@home website**

LDAO has launched a new website with resources for parents, students and families living with LDs. The LD@home website is at [www.ldathome.ca](http://www.ldathome.ca). Please circulate the attached flyer to SEAC members and families.

**6. Educators’ Institute**

LDAO is holding its Fourth Annual Educators’ Institute on August 22nd and 23rd, 2017, in Mississauga. School board registration starts on April 10th, and public registration is available as of May 29th. Please circulate the flyer to educators in your board.

**Questions?** Email Diane Wagner at dianew@LDAO.ca or call (416) 929-4311 Ex. 22 (Mon.)