

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**February 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. Education Funding Consultation

2. Consultation on Student Well-being

3. Accepting Schools Expert Panel End of Mandate Report

4. Proposed Education Standard

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. Special Education section of Education Funding Engagement Guide

2. LDAO Response to Well-being Consultation

3. Accepting Schools Panel End of Mandate Report

4. Supporting a Positive School Culture

5. AODA Alliance Letter to Minister Wynne

**1. Education Funding Consultation**

In November 2016, the Ministry of Education held a consultation with school boards, based on the *2017-18 Education Funding Engagement Guide,* to discuss various aspects of the current funding model. One topic for discussion under the Equity in Education goal was the Special Education Grant. I have excerpted the relevant section of the *2017-18 Education Funding Engagement Guide* so that you can look at the special education funding issues under consideration. If your school board has not already reported back to SEAC on what they learned at the consultation, you should ask for a report to SEAC.

**2. Consultation on Student Well-being**

As part of its Well-Being Strategy for Education, the Ministry has been holding consultations on student well-being. You can read more about the strategy and consultation on the Ministry website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/wellbeing2.html>.
From this website, you can download a Discussion Document, Engagement Paper and Fact Sheets.

Feedback on the set of consultation questions can be submitted through a survey on an [Engagement Portal](https://www.survey.edcs.csc.gov.on.ca/app/Survey/Take/SurveySection/EditAnonymous/541C4D15189248B48AF24D7E5F45157B/1/n), available on the Ministry website until March 19, 2017. If your SEAC is making a submission, you can look at the attached LDAO consultation response for ideas., or you can do the survey individually.

**3. Accepting Schools Expert Panel End of Mandate Report**

In a December letter, Minister Hunter thanked the Expert Panel on Accepting Schools for their End of Mandate Report. Their recommendations provide good input to the Well-being Strategy. For your interest, I have attached a PDF of the full report, and a particularly relevant excerpt on positive school culture.

**4. Proposed Education Standard**

The government of Ontario has agreed to develop an education accessibility standard under the AODA, thanks in large part to the continued advocacy of David Lepofsky and the AODA Alliance. Premier Wynne made the announcement in the legislature on December 5, 2016, with the words "We recognize that there's more to be done, and there will be an education standard developed."

While no timeline was given to appoint an education standards development committee, SEAC members can start thinking about areas an education accessibility standard could address. I have attached a copy of the AODA Alliance letter sent to Premier Wynne, signed by a number of disability-rated organizations, which outlines recommended measures for the standard to include.

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