

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**February 2019**

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 consultations

2. EPO funding changes

3. SEAC composition, orientation and training

4. PA days

5. PRO grants

6. AODA committees

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. PAAC on SEAC Response to Ministry of Education Consultation

2. People for Education summary of EPO funding changes

3. PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices PowerPoint

4. PPM 151: PA Days

**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/> (Note: general memos have not been posted since July 2018, although some more recent funding B memos are posted)

**1. Education consultations**

The Ministry of Education conducted at least two sets of consultations in the fall of 2018. Information about a widely publicized consultation to the general public was included in the November LDAO SEAC Circular, and the attached **PAAC on SEAC Response** was submitted on December 14, 2018. Ministry personnel are still reviewing all the responses, but PAAC members were reassured to learn that Special Education/Success for All policy staff are involved in the review.

There was also a Ministry of Education funding consultation that was less widely publicized. PAAC on SEAC did not learn about the consultation in time to put together a joint response, but you can read the [People for Education response](https://peopleforeducation.ca/research/people-for-educations-response-to-the-provincial-consultation-on-education-funding/?utm_source=E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=e15105060c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_11_30_05_55&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_422aeb3dbd-e15105060c-7967801).

**2. EPO funding changes**

On Friday, December 14th, 2018 the Ministry of Education sent memos to school boards across the province outlining a range of areas where funding is going to be reduced or discontinued. None of the announcements affected Grants for Student Needs (the core funding for education), but are included in a category call Education Programs – Other (EPO). The attached **summary from the People for Education** website gives some information, but the memo itself has not been posted or made public.

SEAC members are asked to forward a copy of the December 14 memo, to their provincial association, if they received it at SEAC. Although Special Education funding is not directly cut, there are programs which have funding discontinued or reduced that will affect students with special education needs. SEACs should ask for information on program cuts or reductions in their school boards.

**3. SEAC composition, orientation and training**

As SEACs begin a new term of office, orientation for new members (and refresh for continuing members) is very important. Many SEACs have found it useful to use the **PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook** as a foundation for SEAC orientation and training. The handbook can be downloaded in sections from the PAAC on SEAC website: [www.paac-seac.ca/home/paac-on-seac-effective-practices-handbook-for-seac-members/](http://www.paac-seac.ca/home/paac-on-seac-effective-practices-handbook-for-seac-members/). Alison Morse created a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of PAAC, which I have attached for your use.

PAAC would like to send an electronic copy of the PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook to SEAC chairs. To facilitate this we are asking SEAC members to send the name and email contact of their new SEAC chair(s). It would also be helpful to have a list of the associations represented on your SEAC. Please send to: dianew@LDAO.ca.

**4. PA days**

PPM 151 on PA days ([www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/ppm151.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/ppm151.pdf), and attached) has been updated as of January 7, 2019 to reflect Ministry of Education priorities, particularly math education. The third PA day can be used for a number of possible listed topics, including special education. SEACs should ask how special education will be addressed in board professional development.

**5. PRO grants**

Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grants have finally been awarded, although there is no public listing of the individual grants (e.g. on the Parent Engagement section of the Ministry website). In spite of the late announcements, the deadline for completing PRO grant projects has not been changed from June 2019, and there is no indication if the grants will be awarded in the future.

**6. AODA committees**

The K-12 and postsecondary **Education Standard Development Committees** were tasked to make recommendations for a new Education Standard under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) These committees had begun to meet in early 2018, but are currently on hold until the Government reviews the report of the third 5 year review of the AODA, by David Onley. That report is expected by the end of February.

The **Information & Communication Standard Development Committee** was also in hiatus until December, when it met to finalize recommendations to go out for public consultation. This committee reviewed the existing Information & Communication Standard, and made recommendations for changes and additions. Once the recommendations are posted for public consultation I will send out a notification to SEAC members.

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