

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**June 2016**

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 Plan/Report

2. PAAC revised Effective Practices Handbook and training videos

3. LDAO Educators’ Institute

4. Videos & handouts from Easter Seals Special Education conference

5. Evaluation and Planning

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. 2016-17 Special Education Plan Checklist

2. Educators Institute flyer English

3. Educators Institute flyer French

**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 Plan/Report**

An important role of SEAC is to review changes to their school board’s Special Education Plan. This should have been happening over a few meetings, and tied into the review of the Special Education Budget, since changes to the plan affect the budget (and vice-versa). In the June meeting you should be looking at the changes that will be reported to the Ministry, in the revised Special Education Plan Checklist (attached).

At least one SEAC has voted unanimously not to support their board’s Special Education Plan for the 2016-2017 school year. LDAO SEAC members should remember that they have the opportunity to submit a Minority Report alone or with other SEAC members if changes to the Special Education Plan will affect students with learning disabilities. There is information on writing minority reports in The PAAC on SEAC Handbook, section 5.5 ([www.ldao.ca/wp-content/uploads/Section-5-SEAC-Meeting-Processes.pdf](http://www.ldao.ca/wp-content/uploads/Section-5-SEAC-Meeting-Processes.pdf))

This would be a good time to make sure that the format of the Special Education Plan on the school board website is easy to navigate for parents. Perhaps a subcommittee of SEAC could look at possible ways to make the plan more easily understood. For example, when there are amendments to the plan, these should be referenced and linked to the sections of the existing plan where they apply. Some creative ideas such as colour coding might also be considered.

1. **PAAC revised Effective Practices Handbook and training videos**

Through funding from a PRO grant, the revised addition of the **PAAC on SEAC** **Effective Practices Handbook**, in English and French, will be available on the [PAAC on SEAC website](http://www.paac-seac.ca/) by *the end of June*, along with three SEAC training videos. PAAC members are excited about the live action videos, which will cover the Purpose of SEAC, Roles and Responsibilities, and The Meeting Process. In addition to being informative, there is a little humour thrown in so the videos are entertaining as well. SEACs could schedule a review of the videos for meetings in the fall, and use these and the revised Handbook as the basis for training of any new SEAC members.

Announcement letters will be sent to the Directors of Education, with a request to forward to Chairs of SEAC. The letter will reference, as a best practice, how some SEACs have created a point of contact email (ex. SEACchair@tdsb.org). SEACs are encouraged to bring this idea as a recommendation to their individual boards.

1. **LDAO Educators’ Institute**

[LD@school](http://ldatschool.ca/) is proud to present the 3rd Annual Bilingual **Educators’ Institute,** on **August 23rd and 24th**at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale. All Ontario educators who work hands-on with students with LDs are encouraged to attend, particularly K-12 classroom teachers, in addition to paraprofessionals, school principals, supervisory officers, special education consultants and coordinators, literacy and numeracy facilitators, special education teachers, and professional support staff.

Flyers in English and French are attached, for distribution to educators.

**4. Videos & handouts from Easter Seals Special Education conference**

Easter Seals has made available online webcasts and handouts from their **Keys to Special Education** conference (funded by a PRO grant):

**Keynote Presentation – What’s New in Special Education -** Louise Sirisko, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch, Ministry of Education provides an overview of Special Education in Ontario.

**Effective Advocacy and Collaboration – Information for parents on how to advocate effectively and work collaboratively with teachers and other school staff**, Lynn Ziraldo, Past Chair of Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education

**Identifying Potential and Programming Effectively**, Joe Trovato, Psycho-educational Consultant, ErinoakKids Centre for Child and Youth Development provides information on how psycho-educational assessments support student programming.

**Therapy at home and school – Developing a single plan of care that supports student success in school and at home,** Judy Anderson, Single Plan of Care Coordinator for Children's Treatment Network, York Region District School Board

**Accessibility Issues at School,** David Lepofsky, Chair, AODA Alliance. David shares his experience as an advocate for accessibility and discusses the need for an Accessibility Standard for Education.

**Implementing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for Successful Communication,** Daniele Fiorindi, Speech/Language Pathologist, CTN - YRDSB Augmentative Communication Consultation Services (ACCS),Sherry Caldwell and Jennifer Facchinelli, parents

**Developing Effective Individual Education Plans(IEPs),** Alison Morse, Provincial Coordinator – Special Education, Easter SealsOntario

The webcasts can be accessed at <http://www.easterseals.webcast.guru/published-events/>

Handouts for the sessions are available at <http://education.easterseals.org/keys-to-special-education-conference-handouts/>

1. **Evaluation and Planning**

June is a good time for SEACs to evaluate how effective SEAC meetings have been over the year, and to develop a plan for SEAC activities in 2016-17.

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

Have a wonderful summer vacation!