

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**June 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 Plan/Report

2. Consultation on Proposed Education Accessibility Standard

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. 2016-17 Special Education Plan Checklist

2. Memo on Educational Accessibility Standard

3. Engagement Guide for the Development of an Accessibility Standard for Education

4. Survey Questions on Accessibility in Education

**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). At the June SEAC meeting you should be looking at the changes that will be reported to the Ministry, in the Special Education Plan Checklist. Last year’s checklist is attached, but there may be a revised version that you can ask for from your school board representative.

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 negatively 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)).

**2. Consultation on Proposed Education Accessibility Standard**

The Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Development and the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario is working to establish a Standards Development Committee for an Education Accessibility Standard. This would be a standard under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), in addition to accessible customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation and design of public spaces standards already in place.

I preparation for the establishment of the Standards Development Committee, a survey has been set up to look at possible scope of the committee’s mandate. A suggestion was also made to conduct a focus group based on the survey questions (see attached Engagement Guide). SEACs would make ideal focus groups, but in addition SEACs might help plan focus groups of parents. Parents can also be encouraged to complete the survey:

* + English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EducationSurveyEN>
	+ French: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/SondageAccessibilite>

To facilitate discussion at SEAC I have attached a document with the survey questions. Responses are to be submitted by July 14, 2017.

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