

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**November 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. New training resources from PAAC on SEAC

2. EQAO testing

3. Updated Special Education Guide

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. PAAC Resources flyer

2. June Special Education Update now available at:
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/special\_ed\_update.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/special_ed_update.html)

**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. New training resources from PAAC on SEAC**

A reminder of the new resources PAAC on SEAC has developed, including an updated version, in French and English, of the *PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook for SEAC members*, and three short *training videos*. These are all available on the PAAC on SEAC website, [www.paac-seac.ca](http://paac-seac.us14.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=76df668836181d0e181bd4b51&id=1a2e0f6b25&e=b83567bc77). An information flyer is attached. An effective practice would be to view the *videos* in SEAC meetings, followed by discussion. Some school boards are printing copies of the *PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook* for all SEAC members.

**2. EQAO testing**

By now you are all aware of the aborted trial of an online version of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on October 20, 2016. Most students who use assistive technology accommodations would probably not have attempted the optional trial, since compatibility with assistive technology software was not built into the system. It is hoped that the next time a trial of the online version is offered, this oversight will be rectified. MACSE members have expressed their disappointment that accessibility issues were not addressed, and PAAC on SEAC will be sending a letter of concern to EQAO.

**3. Updated Special Education Guide**

Over the past several years, the Special Education Policy & Programs Branch (SEPPB) of the Ministry of Education has been working on an updated version of the 2001 document, *Special Education: A Guide for Educators.* This document has been a very valuable resource for parents as well as educators. PAAC on SEAC was one of several groups that gave input to SEPPB on format and content for the new version.

This new version, tentatively called *Special Education in Ontario: Kindergarten to Grade 12*, will consolidate information currently found in: *Standards for School Board’s Special Education Plans (2000); IEP Standards for Development, Program Planning and Implementation (2000); Transition Planning:  A Resource Guide (2002); Special Education: A Guide for Educators (2001); and Individual Education Plan (IEP): A Resource Guide* (2004). The order of units will align with those in the Special Education Plan Standards.

The document is scheduled to be released in draft digital form by the end of 2016, and will have a revision cycle built in. Once it is released, SEACs might set up a subcommittee to review the draft digital document and report to SEAC.

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