

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**November 2018**

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 consultation

2. New SEAC term

3. Funding announcements

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. Ministry of Education consultation questions

2. LDAO suggested points for EDU consultation

3. Funding Announcement August 24, 2018

4. Funding Announcement October 17, 2018

**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. Education consultation**

Subsequent to the initial announcement in August, further details about the Education consultation have been released (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents>), with a **deadline of December 15th** for submissions. The following areas are addressed:

1. Improving student performance in [Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/min_math_strategy.html))
2. Preparing students with needed job skills, such as [skilled trades](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/morestudentsuccess/SHSM.html) and coding
3. Improving provincial [standardized testing](http://www.eqao.com/)
4. Ensuring students graduate with important life skills, including [financial literacy](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial.html)
5. Managing the use of technology in classrooms, such as cell phones
6. Building a new age-appropriate [Health and Physical Education curriculum](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html) that includes subjects like mental health, sexual health education and the legalization of cannabis
7. Developing the first-ever [Parents’ Bill of Rights](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2018/08/ontarios-government-for-the-people-respecting-parents-by-holding-unprecedented-consultation-into-education-reform.html)

SEAC members are encouraged to complete the online survey, based on their own experiences, and SEACs should consider making a committee submission as well. To facilitate discussion, I have attached a Word version of the consultation questions, and some points to consider in preparing your responses.

**2. New SEAC term**

With the municipal elections over, SEACs along with school board trustees will soon be beginning a new term of office. As mentioned in September, in some school boards sitting members, excepting trustee members, may have their terms carried over, but other school boards may require new nominations from parent associations for the new term. Parent association SEAC members and alternates should check their school board’s procedures.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank SEAC members and alternates who are stepping down for their dedicated work over the last year(s), and welcome new members and alternates.

**3. Funding announcements**

On August 24, 2018 a Memo to Directors was sent by the Deputy Minister, advising of some upcoming changes to the April funding announcements. On October 17, 2018 a follow-up memo finalized the details. I have attached both memos for your information. SEACs can ask if and how the changes announced affect their school board’s special education budget for 2018-19.

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