

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**November 2020**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) SEAC Circular is published 5 times a year, usually 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.

 **Topics covered by this SEAC Circular:**

1. Changes resulting from Covid-19

2. Backlogs of assessments and IPRCs

3. Changes to Suspensions and Expulsions

4. New OHRC video on the Right to Read

5. Information & Communication Standards Development Committee’s Final Recommendations

6. PAAC on SEAC Survey Results

 **List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. Nov. 2/20 Memo: Supporting School Board Operations for the 20/21 School Year

2. Changes to Suspensions and Expulsions

**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 funding (B & SB) memos by date at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/>

**1. Changes resulting from Covid-19**

The Ministry of Education is making changes to lessen administrative responsibilities of school boards during Covid-19. Some are outlined in the attached November 2, 2020 memo. For example:

The literacy graduation requirement will be waived for all students graduating during the 2020-21 school year. The ministry is continuing to explore a field test of the online OSSLT in Spring 2021, which could allow the opportunity for non-graduating students to write the test and have successful attempts counted on their transcript.

The Special Incidence Portion (SIP) allocation process for the 2020-21 school year will be temporarily adjusted, with details to follow in an update to the Special Education Funding Guidelines: Special Incidence Portion (SIP), 2020-21.
SEACs should ask to be updated when the new details are released.

In addition, the October OnSIS elementary and secondary submissions will now be due on January 31, 2021 instead of December 31, 2020.

**2. Backlogs of assessments and IPRCs**

SEACs should ask for regular updates on progress in scheduling psychological assessments and IPRCs that were delayed due to school closures.

**3. Changes to Suspensions and Expulsions**

Following the July 2020 announcement of [Ontario's Action Plan to Address Systemic Racism in Schools](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/07/ontario-taking-bold-action-to-address-racism-and-inequity-in-schools-1.html?_ga=2.193588200.474709753.1605020393-1658886042.1593701502), the ministry has created new regulations that change how student behaviour is addressed in junior kindergarten to Grade 3. For one set of activities, instead of suspension, behaviours should be addressed with the appropriate positive behaviour supports in the school setting. See attached document for more details.

**4. New OHRC video on the Right to Read**

A [new OHRC video](https://trk.mmail.lst.fin.gov.on.ca/trk/click?ref=zr9uf3m5h_3-70ccx39df8x0532&) provides a snapshot of the progress of **Right to Read**, the OHRC’s public inquiry into human rights issues affecting students with reading disabilities in Ontario’s public education system. The video also features the real-life experiences of students, parents and teachers, who attended public sessions across Ontario in the past year, and artwork submitted by students to the inquiry. A final report with findings and recommendations is planned for Spring 2021. View the video: [Right to Read | An inquiry snapshot](https://trk.mmail.lst.fin.gov.on.ca/trk/click?ref=zr9uf3m5h_3-70ccx3b4c0x0532&)

**5. Information & Communication Standards Development Committee’s Final Recommendations**

The Government of Ontario has posted the **Information and Communication Standards Development Committee’s Final Recommendations Report** online.  The committee completed their mandate and submitted their final recommendations report to the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, the Honourable Raymond Cho. The government is now carefully reviewing the committee’s recommendations and may accept them in full, in part, with modification.

View the Final Report - [English](https://ontario.ca/page/review-information-and-communications-standards-2020-final-recommendations-report?share=dbce8890-1ebd-11eb-ae2e-c5b90d38ddaf) View the Final Report - [French](https://ontario.ca/fr/page/examen-des-normes-dinformation-et-de-communications-rapport-2020-sur-les-recommandations-finales?share=8f59ab10-1ebe-11eb-ae2e-c5b90d38ddaf)

**6. 2020 PAAC on SEAC Survey Results**

The report from the 2020 PAAC on SEAC Survey is being finalized and will be distributed in early December. The survey report should be put on the agenda for January SEAC meetings.

**Questions?** Email Diane Wagner at dianew@LDAO.ca