

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**September 2021**

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. Planning for the SEAC year

2. Ministry of Education Update

3. K-12 Education Standards Development Committee Initial Recommendations

4. October Public Awareness

 **List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. PAAC on SEAC Calendar 2021-22

2. Revised Policy/Program Memorandum No.151: Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities

3. PAAC on SEAC Response to K – 12 Recommendations

4. PAAC on SEAC Response to Transitions Recommendations

5. LDAO Public Awareness posters

**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. Planning for the SEAC year**

The attached **PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar** can be used to help plan SEAC activities for the school year.

The *PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook* (2016) outlines effective practices to help SEACs develop an annual plan (see: **Section 3 SEAC Roles & Responsibilities,** <http://www.paac-seac.ca/home/paac-on-seac-effective-practices-handbook-for-seac-members/section-3-seac-roles-and-responsibilities/3-1-annual-planning/>)

 **2. Ministry of Education Update**

A Ministry Memo of August 18, 2021, *Revised Policy/Program Memorandum No.151: Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities* (attached) revises the list of topics for professionals activity days for 2021-22. School boards were asked to focus before the start of the school year on: health and safety protocol, mental health and well-being, and learning recovery and intervention strategies. Also included in the topics is instructional approaches to online/remote learning. SEACs can ask specifically about professional development on learning recovery and intervention strategies, and instructional approaches to online/remote learning, as applied to students with special education needs.

SEACS should also ask for a report on their school board’s plans for learning recovery for students with special education needs.

The memo also announced a *Learning and innovation fund for teachers (LIFT).* SEACs can ask if any of these funds will be used to benefit students with special education needs.

**3. K-12 Education Standards Development Committee Initial Recommendations**

The *Kindergarten-Grade-12 Education (K-12) Standards Development Committee (SDC)* of the AODA and a *Transitions Sub-Committee*, released sets of Initial Recommendations for public input in June. The deadline for public feedback has been extended to **September 30**. The Reports and associated surveys for public feedback can be viewed here: [Consultation: Initial recommendations for the development of proposed Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) education accessibility standards | Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-initial-recommendations-development-proposed-kindergarten-grade-12-k-12-education#section-2).

Since the original deadline was September 2nd your SEAC may have set up a subcommittee over the summer to develop a response and you may have discussion at a September meeting. To inform discussion PAAC on SEAC responses to the K-12 and the Transitions recommendations are attached. LDAO responses are still being finalized.

SEAC members are encouraged to respond to the survey individually as well as contribute to their SEAC response.

**4. October Public Awareness**

October is Learning Disabilities public awareness month. Attached are two posters for sharing.

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