

Ministry Funded Projects to Prevent and Remove Barriers for Students with Disabilities

As part of the February 17, 2022 [Priorities and Partnerships funding announcement](#), the Ministry of Education announced a \$6M application-based fund for school boards to implement initiatives to prevent and remove accessibility barriers experienced by students with special education needs and/or disabilities.

The 37 projects listed below were selected for funding. All projects are to be completed by August 31, 2023.

School Board	Ministry Funded Project(s)
Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board	<p>The board has received funding to carry out the following five (5) projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing training and resources for educators in ten schools to build evidence-based methods for printing instruction in Kindergarten. • Partnering with a Speech Language Pathologist to provide sessions for students struggling with speech/phonological awareness to improve skills early. • Training educators how to work with students with disabilities, who display complex behavioural challenges, how to behave safely and productively despite the challenges of everyday life through supporting, assessing and treating severe challenging behaviour with a priority on safety, dignity, and rapport building. • Implementing a program to assess and teach skills to young learners with complex needs. Program staff will work directly with the school team to ensure generalization and maintenance of skills. • Creating a central database to log SEA equipment to enhance tracking and organization of the board's SEA resources.
Avon Maitland District School Board	A project to develop resources and professional learning opportunities to implement the use of Inclusive Education Indicators.
Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board	A professional-learning focused initiative to strengthen capacity to respond to an increasing number of students with vision impairments.

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Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	This project will include conducting training on universal design for learning, improving transitions for students with disabilities through a transitions navigator, and developing a multi-year accessibility plan.
Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières	The board will provide training sessions for educators on universal design for learning to improve management, planning, instruction, and assessment for students with disabilities.
Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	This project seeks to achieve many different objectives, including accessibility guidelines for learning and school environment, accessibility of school premises, training on universal design for learning, and raising awareness about inclusion in the school community.
Durham Catholic District School Board	This board's initiative focuses on improving and further developing experiential learning opportunities for students with disabilities. Job coaches will be trained in specific skills and approaches to better advocate for job-related learning and experiences.
Halton Catholic District School Board	The board will work to improve transitions for students with developmental disabilities by training administrators, teachers, and other educational staff to ensure that they are sufficiently trained to effectively support student transitions from secondary school to workplace or community placements.
Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	<p>The board has received funding to carry out the following four (4) projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project to support conversion of the board's existing student/parent-focused websites to be fully AODA compliant and support a culture of accessibility through staff training, community awareness and a sustainable accessible website maintenance strategy. • A project to create and pilot an interdisciplinary studies course for educators that aligns with the Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Standards Development Committee's Final Report, with a focus on human rights and inclusion and the historical treatment of people with disabilities, including how ableism persists. • Developing and hosting an annual secondary student summit to champion the rights of people with disabilities by engaging all staff and students through meaningful learning and build disability pride.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a Transition Navigator position to support transitions for students with disabilities and their families. The work of the Navigator would align with the recommendations of the Joint Technical Sub-Committee on Transitions' report recommendations.
<p>Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board</p>	<p>The board has received funding to carry out the following two (2) projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring an accessibility consultant to support an accessibility audit of six schools to identify gaps and to support multi-year accessibility planning. • A project to deliver training on Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and develop a process, resource tools and guidelines for UDL within the Board.
<p>Huron Perth Catholic District School Board</p>	<p>The board's project will support students with intellectual disabilities as they transition to post-secondary education, work, volunteer, or the community.</p>
<p>Keewatin Patricia District School Board</p>	<p>This initiative is focused on transitioning students with disabilities to the workplace through a transition coach that will focus on skill and independence-building to prepare students for the transition to postsecondary pathways.</p>
<p>Limestone District School Board</p>	<p>This initiative will focus on expanding opportunities for elementary students with special education needs to engage in sport/play within school environments and at district-wide events.</p>
<p>Niagara Catholic District School Board</p>	<p>The board has received funding to carry out the following two (2) projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing staff and students with learning sessions on topics related to accessibility and inclusion through partnership with community groups such as Autism Ontario. • Supporting schools with improving the recess experience by promoting healthy, inclusive, and compassionate interactions. It includes professional learning for school staff, working with students and gathering student voice.

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<p>Ottawa-Carleton District School Board</p>	<p>The board has received funding to carry out the following three (3) projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project to support students and families with a variety of disabilities by expanding relationships with community groups to build accessible pathways that will support life beyond high school. • An initiative to produce resources and tools to support the work of school based special education teams to create inclusive environments for a diverse range of learners with special education needs. • Providing a variety of learning opportunities to district administrators, educators, families, and students to support understanding of accessible and inclusive practices.
<p>Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board</p>	<p>Through establishing Equity and Accessibility Leads in several schools, this project will seek to build capacity in Universal Design for Learning, and also foster spaces for critical dialogue about race.</p>
<p>Rainbow District School Board</p>	<p>This project will establish a new Transition Facilitator position to support students, their families, school staff and community agencies to identify pathways and develop specific and student-centred transition plans.</p>
<p>Rainy River District School Board</p>	<p>This project will focus on training on equity, ableism, accessibility and inclusion; effective strategies for teaching and designing lesson plans; inclusive assessment and evaluation practices.</p>
<p>Renfrew Country District School Board</p>	<p>An initiative to establish a new Transition Facilitator position to engage in partnerships with social service agencies and business partners to support employment paths for graduating students with disabilities and provide transition planning and resource development and training for school board staff.</p>
<p>Simcoe County District School Board</p>	<p>A professional learning-focused project to provide targeted, responsive instruction and assessment to Grade 4-6 students with Learning Disabilities in mathematics.</p>

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St. Clair Catholic District School Board	This initiative will focus on supporting students with disabilities to explore their options and prepare for their future pathway; it builds on an existing Pathway to Success initiative which focuses on preparing students for future success with emphasis on grades 7 and 8.
Superior-Greenstone District School Board	<p>The board has received funding to carry out the following two (2) projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing practices related to transitions from secondary to post-secondary and beyond. This would improve relationships and partnerships with parents/guardians and community partners and support early planning for successful transitions. • Wayfinding to universal washrooms and calming rooms, and a poster series to create awareness about diverse abilities.
Toronto District School Board	This project would expand an existing pilot to include 125 schools and multiple components to amplify student voices with disabilities through digital learning. This includes a student/school component, parent/guardian/caregiver component, and a resource provision component.
Upper Grand District School Board	This project centers on an Accessibility and Equity Liaison to support transitions for students with disabilities. It includes establishing and working with affinity groups to allow students with disabilities to come and work together.
York Region District School Board	This board's project will engage in an assets and gaps analysis process to strengthen and establish a cohesive Pre-K-12 transition pathway.