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Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Roles and Responsibilities

November 5, 2011

SEAC 30th Anniversary

- Bill 82, *The Education Amendment Act*, 1980 received Royal Assent Dec. 12, 1980
- Transformed special education programs and services in Ontario
- Established vital function that SEACs fulfill in providing advice to boards



Legislation

- *Education Act - Regulation 464/97*
 - Requires school boards to establish Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs)



District School Board (DSB)

Required to:

- Establish a SEAC
- Provide opportunity for SEAC to be heard
- Obtain advice
- Provide information and orientation
- Make available personnel and facilities



DSB (cont'd)

- Provide opportunity to participate in the board's annual review of its special education report (*Reg. 306*)
- Provide opportunity to review the board's annual budget process and financial statements of the boards



SEAC

- Make recommendations
- Participate in the board annual review of its special education report
- Participate in the board annual budget process as it relates to special education
- Review the financial statements of the board as they relate to special education
- Provide information to parents, as requested
- Consultation



Board Improvement Planning for Student Achievement (BIPSA)

- 2010/11 transition year for the inclusion of Special Education in Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) and the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF)
- To improve achievement of students with special education needs
- SEACs to be consulted in these processes



BIPSA



<http://resources.curriculum.org/secretariat/bipsa/addressing.shtml>



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Special Education Report

April 2010 Memo to Boards

- Boards to ensure that an updated and comprehensive report is available to community
- As of this year, boards not required to submit a special education plan to the ministry
- EDU continues to align special education planning with the board improvement planning process focussed on improving student achievement
- Boards must continue to consult with respective SEAC as per Regulation 464/97
- No regulatory change to the role of SEAC or the board (Regulation 306 and 464/97) in this process

SEAC Membership

- Representative from up to 12 local associations
- A maximum of three board members, depending on the size of the board
- One or two persons to represent the interest of Aboriginal pupils, where appropriate
- One or more members at large (optional)



SEAC Membership (cont'd)

- Appointed by the school board for the term of office of members of the board and until a new board is organized
- SEAC members must be qualified to vote for members of the board and must be a resident in its jurisdiction
- Provisions are made for alternatives to be appointed



SEAC Membership (cont'd)

- Employees of the school board are not eligible for membership on the SEAC of the board that employs them.



Removal of Members from SEAC

- Convicted of an indictable offence
- Absents himself or herself from three consecutive regular meetings of the committee without being authorised to do so by a resolution entered in the minutes
- Ceases to hold the qualifications to be appointed to the committee



SEAC

- Ministry has responded to Ministry Advisory Committee on Special Education (MACSE) recommendations
- Asking SEACs across the province to assist in this process
- Review SEAC Learning website, consultations and sharing of effective practices

Resources

- SEAC learning website: <http://seac-learning.ca/>
- Regulation 464/97: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_970464_e.htm
- Regulation 306: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900306_e.htm
- Ministry memo: <http://cal2.edu.gov.on.ca/>