

2021—2022 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Highlights

The Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is an active committee with a mission to advise, advocate and support processes that meet the educational needs of children with special needs. SEAC also works collaboratively to advocate for effective policies, practices and procedures across Ontario.

Supporting students with special needs through the COVID-19 Pandemic

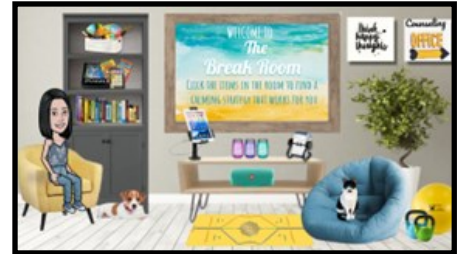
Many supports and services were provided to assist students with special needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and throughout learning at home programming which continued into the 2021- 2022 school year. The mental health needs of students, families and staff has never been as significant as has been evident over the past year. The extraordinary work of the mental health team and the caring response from all staff members, helped to move us forward when the obstacles seemed insurmountable.

SEAC Presentations

A variety of presentations occurred during the 2021-2022 school year about special education programs and services, the needs of exceptional students, and the latest research on effective interventions. Here are some of the topics that were covered:

Interactive mental health resource for students

- Jolie Brant, Social Worker at Eastside Secondary School, demonstrated The Break Room, which is an interactive mental health resource that she created for students to use. The resource provides a wide range of mental health information including community crisis numbers, calming apps, stress reduction strategies, and the Kids Help Phone. This Tier One initiative is reaching a wide audience and will provide easy access to information and supports.




Psychological Services processes

- Dr. Deanna Mayfield, Board Lead Psychologist, provided an overview of Psychological Services processes. Information was shared on the collaborative model of intervention used to address students' learning needs and well-being. School teams follow a process of Continuous Assessment, that supports a tiered model of intervention when concerns regarding a student's academic progress and/or socio-emotional/behavioural functioning have been identified.



Deaf and Hard of Hearing support

- Glenda McComb, Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Itinerant Resource Teacher, shared information on various means to access the curriculum through Remote Microphone (RM) systems. She described the monitoring, in-servicing, and ongoing support she provides to elementary and secondary students. This includes using devices and appropriate technology consistently, developing and delivering programs and services to support students in the area of receptive and expressive language, auditory management, and self-advocacy.



**TRI-BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING**
Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Please join Tri-Board SEAC here: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

AGENDA

5:00 to 6:00 p.m. – Individual SEAC meetings (virtual)
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. – Presentation from LDAO
– LDAO
– Group Discussion/Debrief

PRESENTATION – Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO)

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) is a registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and adults with learning disabilities. LDAO offers many resources, services, information, services, and products designed to help people with LDs and ADHD, as well as parents, teachers, and other professionals.

PRESENTER
Marie Sim, Educational Consultant, LD@school

LD@school
LD@school is a project of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) and includes a website as well as the Educator's Institute (summer conference). LD@school provides Ontario educators with information, evidence-based resources, and research related to teaching students with learning disabilities.

Key Points

- Resources have been developed for educators
- Resources are searchable by various traits: topic, grade, resource type, level of evidence, etc.)
- Many resources such as podcasts and webinars have been transcribed and may include links to guiding questions and additional resources
- Self-directed learning modules take about 1-2 hours to complete
- All resources are free to use

LD@home
This website was created to help bring resources to Ontario households impacted by learning disabilities. LD@home provides resources to families and a safe place to connect with LDAO networks across Ontario.

Key Points

- Information is geared to families
- Resources often include transcripts and other materials for helping students at home
- Connections and information on local LD chapters and partner organizations
- All resources are free to use

Event hosted by:
Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

Tri-Board SEAC Meeting

The annual Tri-Board SEAC meeting occurred in May with members from Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic, Limestone, and Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board. The meeting included a presentation by Learning Disabilities of Ontario (LDAO), to share information, evidence-based resources, and research related to teaching students with learning disabilities.

