



SPECIAL SERVICES

Special Education Superintendent Update

November 2020



Initial/Central Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRCs)

A concerted effort has been employed during the month of October (October 13-30) to complete outstanding Initial and Central (arms-length Chair) Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings.

Total: 492

Initial/Central IPRCs are continuing on a weekly basis from November onwards according to the regular yearly scheduling process. Chairs will continue to be retired principals/superintendent.

Plans for the conduct of Annual IPRC reviews as well as other Special Education meetings (School Based Support Team (SBST), Case Conference, and School Based Support Learning Team (SBSLT) are underway with Assessment Programming Teachers (APTs)/Program Assessment Teachers (PATs) providing organizational and implementation support for their assigned schools.



Professional Learning

APTs/PATs have been busy preparing webinars and PowerPoint presentations for teacher professional learning:

- preparation and implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students in regular class and Intensive Support Program (ISP) placements (elementary, secondary)
- "How To...(procedures for engaging Special Services supports)" PowerPoint presentations for Special Education teachers
- Engaging students with differing abilities through virtual interactive learning: A Sample Lesson Design
- Managing transitions
- Alternative assessment
- IEP and alternative assessment Zoom seminars for St. Anne's Academy (virtual school staff)

New Math Curriculum

The Acting Chief of IPRC/Assessment is currently working with the Curriculum Team Co-ordinator and Math Team to explore the new mathematics curriculum, associated online tools, and the implementation of IEP supports.





On October 21, 2020, Chief Social Worker, Vanessa Cocco joined Director Browne to discuss the ongoing relationship between Child Welfare and Education as we strive to address and eradicate systemic racism. It was a fruitful discussion that will undoubtedly lead to continued actions that truly support our students and families in meaningful ways.



On November 12, 2020, the Social Work Department came together with Social workers around the province for the annual Ontario Association of Social Workers School Social Work Symposium featuring guest speaker Kike-Ojo Thompson. It also involved a Q & A panel of distinguished social work colleagues representing diverse communities. The day provided excellent professional development and furthered the department's goal towards reflective practice and ensuring we continue to provide unparalleled service to our system.



The Ministry funded Assistive Technology team has been instrumental in aiding staff and students in the pivot to remote learning. Paired with staff from Student Success and 21C they have provided on-going support to both new and experienced teachers who have taken assignments in the Virtual School. Additionally, they have provided support to individual families whose children have made the adjustment to learning in a new modality. The team has worked with parents and children to ensure access to curriculum has been as seamless as possible. Excellent resources for teachers, parents and students have been generated and posted to the Assistive Technology website which includes links specifically for students in both elementary and secondary who want to learn more about the Google Suite of educational tools including Read and Write and Equatio. The site contains detailed and user-friendly videos and tutorials on a host of subjects. There is a link for staff: TCDSB Assistive Technology Website as well as the link to their YouTube Channel TCDSB AT YouTube Channel which provides webinars and mini-tutorials on a wide range of topics.



Elementary: <http://bit.ly/AT-TCDSBelemstudent>
 Secondary: <http://bit.ly/AT-TCDSBsecstudent>



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The Speech and Language team has been engaged in a variety of initiatives to address the needs of both in-person and remote learners:

- Providing professional learning opportunities to both in-person and virtual teachers.
- Completing speech assessments and referrals.
- Connecting with Early Language Program (ELP) teams to identify students who may be at risk for speech, language, communication difficulties and then connecting with the parents of these students to describe next steps.
- Connecting with virtual teachers who have concerns about their student's speech, language, communication skills and determining next steps including facilitating referrals as appropriate.
- Completing Kindergarten Language Program (KLP) assessments.
- Providing short-term virtual intervention involving parent coaching and/or student instruction for speech/literacy.
- Providing materials such as visuals to virtual families so that students have these resources at home for parents to use.
- Gathering background information including parent interviews, Ontario Student Record (OSR) reviews, discussion with past and current teachers, etc. in preparation for assessment.
- Connecting with translators for discussion with parents via Zoom.
- Facilitating School Based Support Learning Team (SBSLT) discussions about possible Language Impairment (LI) placements for students.



The two Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) positions that were previously contract positions have become permanent positions. One staff in place and interviews completed for the second position.



- The Autism Team continues to support students in-person at school and at St. Anne virtually through a referral process.
- Staff are supporting St. Anne administrators with connecting teachers with appropriate Special Services staff.
- The students in the Program to Assist Social Thinking (PAST) program continue to be supported in-person and virtually through an itinerant model.
- Special Services staff are continuing to address student mental health needs and nurture mental wellness.

