

To: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

From: Informal Working Group to review the TCDSB Special Education Plan

Date: November 18, 2020

Subject: Report from Informal Working Group's Zoom meeting of Nov 17, 2020

The informal working group (Members: Nancy Crawford, Tyler Munro, and Deborah Nightingale) met via Zoom on November 17, 2020 to discuss sections 3 and 22 of the Special Education Plan.

The informal working group recommends the following to the Special Education Advisory Committee:

1. The current "Range of Placements" section of the Special Education Plan is published on the TCDSB website as a series of documents accessed by tabs and drop-down menus. There are approximately 400 pages. Guided by the desire to make the Special Education Plan easy to understand and user friendly for parents as well as compliant with Ministry of Education guidelines, we suggest that the plan be improved by describing the range of supports and placements provided by the TCDSB in one consolidated document (approximately 10-30 pages).
2. That the Accountability Framework for Special Education (2017-2018) be updated with a focus on the TCDSB programs and supports offered to Special Education students.
3. The overall format of the current Special Education Plan, which has lots of links and menus, is potentially overwhelming for parents. We propose that a more concise version of the Plan that describes a) the range of placements and supports, and b) how the best fit for each Special Education student is determined (including steps such as identification, placement and the purpose of the Identification, Placement and Review Committee meetings).
4. The Special Education Plan would be easier for parents to understand and use if we remove the Board Learning Improvement Plan.