

October 19, 2021

Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1L2

Honourable Stephen Lecce,

We, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), are writing to share our common concerns expressed by the Algoma District School Board (ADSB) SEAC and the Durham District School Board (DDSB) SEAC in regard to Online Learning Supports and Universal Design for Learning in provincial online learning resources and the platforms used to access these resources.

While we are privileged to live in the WRDSB and our students have convenient access to wireless connections, Chromebooks, and a well-supported online learning environment, we are deeply concerned about the students in the areas that do not have the same access and resources. As such, it is our request that you commit to ensuring that all online and/or learning courses must be consistently maintained with enabled links and resources that meet accessibility standards (such as closed captioning, etc.).

While schools are opening back up to in-school learning and virtual learning needs are diminishing the student population as a majority, we acknowledge that online learning is still the best choice for some students and that their learning experience is as worthy of proper resources that adhere to universal design for learning as their in-school peers. The pandemic has shown gaps in our province's online learning resources and an opportunity to invest in our students' educational access.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this request for action.

Sincerely,



Sara Penny  
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee  
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc. Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



51 Ardelt Avenue  
Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5  
T: 519-570-0003  
F: 519-742-1364  
wrdsb.ca



FACEBOOK.COM/WRDSB



INSTAGRAM.COM/WR\_DSB



TWITTER.COM/WRDSB



YOUTUBE.COM/WRDSBVIDEO