

To: SEAC

From: Deborah Nightingale, SEAC Representative for ABC Ontario

Subject: Right to Read Inquiry Implementation for Students with Special Education Needs

MOVED BY: Deborah Nightingale

WHEREAS: On February 28, 2022, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released its *Right to Read* inquiry report on human rights issues affecting students with reading disabilities, calling for critical changes to Ontario's approach to early reading, in areas such as curriculum and instruction, screening, reading interventions, accommodations and professional assessments;

WHEREAS: The inquiry found that by not using evidence-based approaches to teach students to read, Ontario's public education system is failing students with reading disabilities such as dyslexia, and other students;

WHEREAS: The *Right to Read* report includes recommendations to the Ministry of Education, school boards and faculties of education on how to address systemic issues that affect the right to learn to read; and

WHEREAS: SEAC recognizes and supports a diverse variety of Special Education needs and the requirement for an appropriate variety of beneficial education options for students both identified and not identified with Special Education needs in the TCDSB.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommends to the board as follows,

1. On a go forward basis, staff provide SEAC with information every year about all reading supports and related programs offered to TCDSB students, whether they have an IEP or not.
2. These annual reports to SEAC be accompanied by information about changes to the current literacy programs, new methods and programs to identify students who struggle with reading, new programs to support the development of reading skills, and the number of students enrolled in these programs.

Deborah Nightingale
ABC Ontario