

LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

September 2017

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) SEAC Circular is published 5 times a year, in September, November, February, April and June.

The following are some topics that your SEAC should be looking at. Action items and/or recommendations for effective practices will be underlined.

Feel free to share any of this information or the attachments with other SEAC members. As always, when you are planning to introduce a motion for the consideration of SEAC, it is particularly important that you share all related background items with your fellow SEAC reps.

The topics covered by this SEAC Circular:

1. Planning for the SEAC year
2. Draft **Special Education in Ontario: Kindergarten to Grade12 (Policy and Resource Guide)** released
3. Deadline extended for input on an **Accessibility Standard for Education**
4. Update on **Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services**
5. MACSE June meeting highlights

List of Supplementary Materials:

1. PAAC on SEAC calendar 2017-18
2. LDAO Response to Consultation on an Accessibility Standard for Education
3. Next Steps Memo on Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services
4. MACSE June Meeting Highlights
5. LDAO Response to Consultation on Guidelines on Accessible Education

Note: You can access the SEAC Circular and supplementary materials at www.ldao.ca/about/public-policy-advocacy/seac-circulars/.

You can access Ministry memos by date at:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/>

1. Planning for the SEAC year

It is good practice for SEACs to start the school year by developing or revising an annual plan. Each year PAAC creates a PAAC on SEAC calendar with important dates and reminders, in order to facilitate such planning. The 2017-18 version is attached, and is also on the PAAC on SEAC website (<http://www.paac-seac.ca/>)

The *PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook* (2016) outlines effective practices to help SEACs develop an annual plan (see: **Section 3 SEAC Roles & Responsibilities**, <http://www.paac-seac.ca/home/paac-on-seac-effective-practices-handbook-for-seac-members/section-3-seac-roles-and-responsibilities/>).

2. Draft Special Education in Ontario: Kindergarten to Grade12 (Policy and Resource Guide) released

The long awaited replacement for **Special Education: A Guide for Educators (2001)** has been released as a draft. The Ministry will convene a working group composed of education sector experts who will, over the next 12 to 18 months, review IEP related resources within the document. The draft document can be downloaded at:
http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools_2017e.pdf.

This new Guide includes content from both policy and resource materials. Policy documents (e.g. Standards for Special Education Plans, and for IEPs) are unchanged, but new information has been added to update resource documents. Key sections of the Guide include:

- Part A: Legislation, Policy and Funding
- Part B: Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans
- Part C: Early Identification, Assessment and Transition Planning
- Part D: The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Process
- Part E: The Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Part F: Other Programs and Services

The Categories and Definitions are mostly unchanged, although the new definition of Learning Disability, adopted in the revised PPM 8, is included. Since the document is draft, new definitions could be added as they are approved.

The section on Early Identification, Assessment and Transition Planning has quite a bit of new material, including transitions into school and within school settings. The concepts of ongoing assessment **of** learning and **for** learning are explained, and there is discussion of the role of school team meetings.

The section on the IPRC is based on Regulation 181/98, which hasn't changed. The section on IEPs, follows the format of the Ministry IEP template, which is included as an appendix. It is nice to see that this template now explicitly includes a space for parent comments, in addition to just a parent signature. The IEP Standards are also in the appendix.

SEAC members should familiarize themselves with the new document, and consider asking for a presentation at SEAC. LDAO SEAC members can send comments or concerns to dianew@LDAO.ca.

3. Deadline extended for input on an Accessibility Standard for Education

In the June LDAO SEAC Circular, information was provided on a consultation on a proposed Accessibility Standard for Education, under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). In preparation for the establishment of a Standards Development Committee, a survey had been set up to look at possible scope of the committee's mandate. A Memo to Directors on July 31, 2017 extended the deadline for completion of the survey to October 16, 2017. The survey can be accessed at:

- English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EducationSurveyEN>
- French: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/SondageAccessibilite>

Those who did not participate in the survey last spring have another chance. I have attached the response LDAO submitted, for those who are interested.

4. Update on Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services

The Ministries involved in the Special Needs Strategy (EDU, MCYS & MOHLTC) have pressed the restart button on the planning for Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services. Local steering committees have been asked to discontinue working on final proposals for integrating services, and the ministries will establish a provincial advisory group of clinical experts, sector partners and education stakeholders to provide advice to the ministries on a tiered service delivery model. From now until April 1, 2018, contracts for rehabilitation services will be moved from LIHNs to Children's Treatment Centres. The ministries' plan during the transition is to maintain service continuity for children and their families who are receiving or waiting for these services. The memo also states that "where DSBs currently provide occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech-language pathology, these services will remain in place." SEACs should ask how the rehabilitation services provided by their school boards will be affected.

5. MACSE June meeting highlights

Meeting highlights from the June MACSE meeting are attached. Note that "MACSE unanimously endorsed a call for a ministry-sponsored SEAC conference in the spring of 2019", when there would be newly appointed SEACs following the 2018 school board elections.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) is preparing to revise its Guidelines for Accessible Education, which were last amended in 2009. MACSE agreed to make this the focus of its next community collaboration engagement so as to inform a discussion at its meeting in October.

Note: Both LDAO and PAAC on SEAC were asked to provide input to OHRC on revising the Guidelines. The LDAO submission is attached.

Questions? Email Diane Wagner at dianew@LDAO.ca or call (416) 929-4311 Ex. 22 (Mon.)