

# Model for Special Education

## Provision of Special Education Programs And Services Within Toronto Catholic District School Board

### Philosophy of Special Services

*“Our commitment is to every student. This means ...[ensuring] that we develop strategies to help every student learn, no matter their personal circumstances.”*

**-Reach Every Student: Energizing Ontario Education, 2008**

In partnership with families, the parish and the community, our Catholic education system is directed at developing the full spiritual, physical, academic, cognitive, social and emotional wellbeing of each student. Through their learning experiences, students develop a sense of self-worth and dignity as people of God and are able to make a useful contribution in a complex and changing society. Inherent in these beliefs is the recognition that all students, regardless of exceptionality, are entitled to education in the most enabling environment. The exceptional student is a unique child of God and has a right to be part of the mainstream of education, to the extent to which it is practical and beneficial.

In order to provide an education in the most enabling environment, TCDSB advocates the principle of inclusion as part of a continuum of services/programs which includes *accommodation* and/or modification of the regular class program, withdrawal, and intensive support programs.

*“...The integrity of Catholic education does not and cannot rest solely on the shoulders of a few individuals or belong only to certain groups of people...”*

*“We are bound together by a common faith and in common service.”*

**-Fulfilling the Promise (Pp. 6-7)**

*“Only by helping every student reach his or her potential can we hope to close the achievement gap between groups of students.”*

**-Learning for All, 2013 (p.12)**

Inclusion of students with special educational needs in our schools can be summed up in the following quote:

*“We invite you to become active participants in the process of Catholic Education. We urge you to bring your energy, enthusiasm and generosity to the task of building a Catholic community within your school and to shaping the vision of Catholic education.”*

**-This Moment of Promise (P. 22)**

### Parental Involvement in Education within the Toronto Catholic District School Board

The Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children. To this end, the Toronto Catholic District School Board recognizes and promotes the involvement of parents in all decisions that are made with regard to their children.

Parents are invited to be partners in the process utilized to address the learning needs of the child.

They are encouraged to share information, voice their opinions, express concerns and are recognized as valued partners in the education of each child to his/her full potential.

## **OLD:**

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Inherent in these beliefs is the recognition that all students, regardless of exceptionality, are entitled to education in the most enabling environment. The exceptional student is a unique child of God and has a right to be part of the mainstream of education, to the extent to which it is practical and beneficial.

In order to provide an education in the most enabling environment, TCDSB advocates the principle of integration as part of a range of services/programs which includes modification of the regular class program, withdrawal and congregated placement, itinerant services and alternative curriculum where required.

Inclusion of the special needs student in our schools can be summed up: "We invite you to become active participants in the process of Catholic Education. We urge you to bring your energy, enthusiasm and generosity to the task of building a Catholic community within your school and to shaping the vision of Catholic education"

The Moment of Promise (p. 22)

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