



LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

November 2017

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. Consultation on School Board Governance
2. Ministry of Education Equity Action Plan
3. New PPM on students with prevalent medical conditions
4. Understanding data collection, e.g. October reports

List of Supplementary Materials:

1. Governance Discussion Guide
2. School Board Governance suggestions
3. News Release on *Education Action Equity Plan*
4. News Release on *Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions*
5. PAAC on SEAC Q & As on data Collection

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

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

1. Consultation on School Board Governance

The Ministry of Education is doing a review of governance of school board committees, including SEACs. There is a Discussion Guide with questions attached to this Circular. Not all sections are highly relevant to SEAC, but PAAC on SEAC discussed the questions and made suggested points that could be raised by SEACs. The attached summary could be used by SEAC members to inform their discussions and recommendations. Responses to the consultation are due by **November 13th** and can be sent to LDB-DDL@ontario.ca.

2. Ministry of Education Equity Action Plan

In September the Ministry released the attached News Release announcing the Education Action Equity Plan. While the memo mentions “students with disabilities and students with special education needs”, the emphasis in the Action Plan seems to be on other disadvantaged groups. SEACs should ask how students with special education needs are being included in their board’s Education Action Equity Plan initiatives. More information can be found at:

[Ontario’s Education Equity Action Plan](#) (PDF, 1.15 MB)

[Parent Fact Sheet: Understanding Ontario’s Education Equity Action Plan](#) (PDF, 333 KB)

3. New PPM on students with prevalent medical conditions

On October 24, 2017 the Ministry released a draft [PPM 161: Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions \(Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy\) in Schools](#). By next school year, all school boards across Ontario will be required to have policies in place to improve the safety of students with anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy. Boards will be required to provide students that have medical conditions with a plan of care, which outlines contacts and procedures tailored to the individual needs of the student. The PPM outlines responsibilities of boards, school staff and parents. Boards are to consult various groups in developing their policies, and since many students with these medical conditions also have special education needs, SEACs should ask to be included in consultations.

4. Understanding data collection, e.g. October reports

Schools and school boards submit data to the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS) on students enrolled on October 31st each year. The data is supposed to be submitted by December 31st, and there are also submission dates at the end of March and the end of June. Data submitted to OnSIS is anonymized at that level. PAAC on SEAC had a presentation by Ministry staff in which they outlined the data collecting process and answered questions posed by PAAC. The attached document helps clarify some confusion about this complicated process.

While school boards could not share with SEAC the exact data submitted to OnSIS, they would have ways to summarize and anonymize the data and share the results with SEAC. SEACs should continue to ask for data related to students with special education needs on a timely basis after the data is submitted to OnSIS.

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