

## **LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**February 2018**

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. Changes at the Ministry of Education
2. Consultation on Student Transportation
3. IEP section of Special Education in Ontario K to Grade 12, Policy and Resource Guide
4. Education Transformation Steering Committee
5. Report on Suspensions and Expulsions

### **List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. EDU Staffing Announcement Memo
2. Memo about Student Transportation
3. PAAC on SEAC feedback on Part E, The Individual Education Plans (IEP)
4. Memo about Transformation Steering Committee
5. Suspension Expulsion Program Report

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

## **I. Changes at the Ministry of Education**

Minister Mitzi Hunter has a new portfolio, and [Indira Naidoo Harris](#) is now the new Minister of Education. Minister Naidoo Harris was previously Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care and will continue to hold that portfolio.

[Shirley Kendrick](#) is the new Director of the Special Education/Success for All Branch, as Louise Sirisko has become the Director of Education for the York Region DSB. The memo announcing Shirley Kendrick's position is attached.

## **2. Consultation on Student Transportation**

In a December 15, 2017 memo, the Ministry of Education announced a new vision and consultation on student transportation. While the memo (attached) does not identify SEACs as a target of the consultation, since transportation is an important issue for many students with special education needs, your SEAC may wish to prepare a response, based on experiences in your school board.

**Responses are due by March 29, 2018** through an on-line portal. The link to the submission portal and the Discussion Paper is: [www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-new-vision-student-transportation](http://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-new-vision-student-transportation).

PAAC on SEAC will be preparing a response that I will share with SEAC members when finalized.

## **3. IEP section of Special Education in Ontario K to Grade 12, Policy and Resource Guide**

At a November 2017 meeting, representatives from the Special Education/Success for All Branch made a presentation to PAAC on SEAC on *Part E, The Individual Education Plans (IEP) of Special Education in Ontario K to Grade 12, Policy and Resource Guide*. As mentioned in the September SEAC Circular, the Ministry plans to consult on the IEP section of the draft special education guide specifically, over a period of one year to 18 months.

PAAC on SEAC prepared a feedback document to the Ministry, which I have attached for your information. As part of your role in reviewing the IEP processes in your school board (see PAAC on SEAC calendar) SEACs can use the feedback provided in this document.

## **4. Education Transformation Steering Committee**

A November 29, 2017 memo (attached) announced the establishment of a Transformation Steering Committee by the Ministry of Education. Although there is some parent representation, no organizations that represent special education perspectives are currently on the committee.

SEACs could ask if anyone in their school board has the opportunity for input to the steering committee, and if so, ask to be consulted on any input that affects students with special education needs.

## **5. Report on Suspensions and Expulsions**

A January 9, 2018 memo invited Directors of Education, the ED of the Provincial Schools, Safe and Accepting School Leads, and Supervisory Officers for School Authorities, to participate in a webinar presentation by Western University on their Evaluation of Suspension/Expulsion Programs. A summary of the report's findings and recommendations is attached. Since a disproportionately high percentage of students with special education needs are expelled, suspended, and/or excluded, SEACs may wish to review the summary report to see what recommendations may apply to their school board processes.

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