

# LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR

**February 2023**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) SEAC Circular is published 5 times a year, usually 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.

## **Topics covered by this SEAC Circular:**

1. Ministry of Education Updates
2. School board projects to prevent and remove accessibility barriers
3. De-streaming
4. Updated PAAC on SEAC annual calendar
5. Online parent advocacy course

## **List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. Special Education in Ontario (PAAC on SEAC presentation Nov. 28, 2022)
2. Special Education Update November 2022
3. Ministry Funded Projects to Prevent and Remove Accessibility Barriers 2022-23
4. PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar 2022-23
5. Partnering with Schools for Student Success

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

You can access Ministry funding (B & SB) memos by date at:  
<https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos.htm>

## 1. Ministry of Education Updates

Attached are two documents from the Ministry of Education. The first is a **presentation made to PAAC on SEAC\*** on November 28, 2022, which contained information in response to PAAC questions.

Note the discussion on pages 15 – 17 on expenditures to be included in the Special Education Grant, and page 18 on the Covid-19 Learning Recovery Fund. There is a statement that SEACs may want to work with their local school boards in understanding their use of the Covid-19 Learning Recovery Fund (including what portion of the funding was spent on special education).

The second document is the **Special Education Update** created for the November MACSE\*\* meeting. It includes updates from other Ministries.

Funding announcements of note:

- \$8.32M to support school boards in implementing early interventions in Math for students with special education needs. Boards can use funding for staffing, professional development and math resources.
- \$25M to support evidence-based reading intervention programs and professional assessments.  
(With this funding, the ministry provided guidance to boards about evidence-based approaches to supporting struggling readers, building on expert advice from the ministry's multiyear pilot project on supporting students with learning disabilities affecting reading.)

SEACs should ask for reports on how their school boards are allocating these two funding envelopes.

## 2. School board projects to prevent and remove accessibility barriers

The Ministry of Education funded school board projects to prevent and remove accessibility barriers experienced by students with special educational needs and/or disabilities. School boards were invited to apply, and 37 projects were selected. Attached is a list with descriptions of all 37 projects. If your school board is listed SEAC should ask for a presentation on the projects. If not listed SEACs can ask if their board applied. All projects are to be completed by August 31, 2023.

## 3. De-streaming

The implementation of de-streamed Grade 9 courses in Math and English poses challenges. SEACs should ask what supports are being provided to students with special education needs and what policies are in place for evaluating student progress, assigning grades and granting credits.

LDAO SEAC members are asked to share with LDAO any feedback they are receiving from parents and students on their experiences with de-streamed classes: [dianew@LDAO.ca](mailto:dianew@LDAO.ca)

## 4. Updated PAAC on SEAC annual calendar

Attached is an updated version of the PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar for 2022-23. It contains new information to ask for in May.

## 5. Online parent advocacy course

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, in partnership with the LD Mental Health Program of the Child Development Institute, is presenting an online workshop for parents and those who are helping parents navigate the school system. The course is called **Partnering with Schools for Student Success**, and promotes a collaborative approach to advocacy, based on knowledge and understanding on both sides.

A new session is starting on **Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** and information can be found at: [www.ldao.ca/ldao-services/workshops-courses/partnering-with-schools-for-student-success-effective-parent-advocacy/](http://www.ldao.ca/ldao-services/workshops-courses/partnering-with-schools-for-student-success-effective-parent-advocacy/)

\* Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees (PAAC on SEAC)

\*\*Minster's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)

**Questions?** Email Diane Wagner at [dianew@LDAO.ca](mailto:dianew@LDAO.ca)