

Special Education Advisory Committee

February 12, 2024



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we reside on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognise the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, as well as the importance of establishing and maintaining Cultural Safety through learning from Indigenous Peoples and Perspectives.



Agenda

	Item	Facilitator/ Presenter	Time
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call to Order (quorum) ● Announce Live Streaming of meeting ● Land Acknowledgement ● Review/Approval of Agenda ● Declarations of Possible Conflicts of Interests ● Approval of SEAC Minutes from January Chair Report 	:7:00 to 7:10 Note: A timer will be implemented for discussion items and every effort will be made to follow agenda item timelines,	TDSB Live Webcast - Special Education Advisory Committee 10 minutes
2	IPRC Appeals	Louise Sirisko, Associate Director Nandy Palmer, System Superintendent Krish Chakraborty, System Officer - Performance Strategh and Senior Legal COunsel Vitaliy Plotnikov. Policy Coordinator	25 minutes 7:10 – 7:35
3	Budget Update	Craig Snider	15 minutes 7:35 – 7:50

Agenda

	Item	Facilitator/ Presenter	Time
4	Budget Motion	David Lepofsky	10 minutes 7:50 – 8:00
5	SEAC Priorities	SEAC members	8:00 – 8:30 30 minutes
6	Leadership Report	Associate Director Louise Sirisko System Superintendent Nandy Palmer	8:30 - 8:40 10 minutes
7	Trustees Report	Trustees	5 minutes 8:40 – 8:45

Agenda

	Item	Facilitator/ Presenter	Time
8	Association and Community Updates Working Group Updates (on request)	Working Groups 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 Working Group • Budget Working Group • Special Education Plan Working Group Associations Autism Ontario (distributed)	8:45 – 8:55 10 minutes
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Business • Correspondence • Adjournment • Membership Announcements Next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 18 	Chair New alternate member for Epilepsy Toronto (Ann Blanchette) New alternate member for CADDAC (Reese Macklin)	5 minutes 8:55 – 9:00

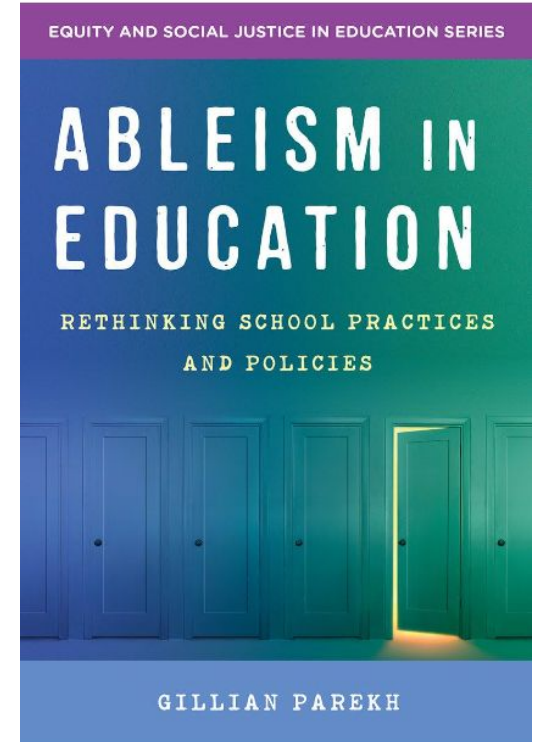
Presentation by Dr. Gillian Parekh to Special Education and Inclusion Department

To support capacity building for special education staff in supporting inclusion and challenging mindsets about students with special education needs, all staff in the Special Education and Inclusion Department have been studying *Ableism in Education: Rethinking School Practices and Policies* by Dr. Gillian Parekh (2024).

In January 2024, Dr Parekh, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Disability Studies in Education within the Faculty of Education at York University, led the department in a critical conversation.

As a previous teacher in special education and research coordinator with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Gillian has conducted extensive system and school-based research in Toronto in the areas of structural equity, special education, and academic streaming. In particular, her work explores how schools construct and respond to disability as well as how students are organized across programs and systems.

The department will continue to use this research to inform decisions about special education programs, services and supports.



GTA SEA Conference



The Special Education and Inclusion Department hosted twelve Greater Toronto Area (GTA) school board Assistive Technology (AT) and Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Teams on January 19th to learn from each other and share best practices about how to support students with disabilities and special education needs in their district.

Participants joined breakout rooms to discuss key issues such as professional learning, assistive programs, and new software applications. The keynote address was on accessibility and artificial intelligence, and was led by the Microsoft Accessibility Manager.

Special Incidence Portion Funding

The Special Incidence Portion (SIP) allocation supports students with extraordinarily high needs who require more than two full-time staff to address their health and/or safety needs, and those of others at their school. TDSB applies for a [Special Incidence Portion \(SIP\) rebate](#) for staff support to ensure the health and/or safety of students who have extraordinarily high needs and of others at school. This works out to a rebate from the Ministry of Education to a maximum of \$28,803 per full time staff per eligible student per year (1.0 Average Daily Enrollment).

In the 2023–24 school year, the Ministry is undertaking a review to modernize the SIP Allocation and temporarily adjusting the SIP funding approach by using a formula to calculate the amount for each school board instead of the student applications.

In 2022-2023 the TDSB received \$13,860,247 through 472 individual claims. In 2023-2024, the TDSB is expected to receive \$15,049,034 (2022/23 approved amount plus a 5% increase).



Projected Enrolment

Enrolment projections are updated annually to support budget planning, staff allocation, and reporting to the Ministry of Education. The table below outlines the actual Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) of Pupils of the Board for 2022-23 and the projected ADE for 2024-2025.

ADE is a measure of enrolment that the Ministry of Education uses to allocate funding to school boards. It is based on full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments of Pupils of the Board counted on the last days of October and March of a school year (full-time equivalent counts students by the amount of time they are registered for instruction).

The average of these two counts is the ADE. Pupils of the Board are defined as all students who are eligible for funding from the Ministry of Education. Fee-paying students are not included in the count of Pupils of the Board (e.g., International students).

A copy of the Projections Enrolment Report to Trustees can be found [here](#).

Projected Enrolment

Projected Average Daily Enrolment (Expressed as Pupils of the Board)

	Actual 2022-2023	Projected 2024-2025
JK/SK	31,777	30,785
Grades 1 to 3	49,526	50,495
Grades 4 to 8	82,370	83,299
Total Elementary	163,673	164,579
Secondary	70,265	72,953
Total Day School	233,938	237,532

Inclusive Education Month

February is [National Inclusive Education Month](#) in Canada, which promotes and raises awareness about inclusive education. According to Inclusive Education Canada, the purposes of National Inclusive Education Month are:

- To highlight inclusive education – to define what it is and how the development of inclusive schools and inclusive school practices helps provide quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students with an intellectual disability.
- To provide educators, students and parents an opportunity to share ideas on strategies to enhance inclusion and successful school experiences for every child.
- To acknowledge and recognize the commitment and effort of teachers, administrators, students, and families who contribute to successful inclusion of students in schools and classrooms throughout Canada.

Please access the following links for more information, learning, and resources:

- [Community Living Ontario Resources](#)
- [The Evolution Toward Inclusive Education In Canada – John Freer.](#)
- [Do Children Have Rights? The Harmful Effect Of Partial School Attendance And Seclusion Rooms Webinar](#)



Psychological Services Data



Psychological Services Assessment Statistics

December 2023

Month-By-Month	LC1	LC2	LC3	LC4	Total
Completed	40	60	59	71	230
Total Referrals	154	174	186	311	825
Cumulative (since September 2023)					
Completed	179	172	120	153	624
In Progress	186	206	253	225	870
Waiting*	308	264	337	581	1490
Removed	26	34	39	42	141
Total Referrals**	699	676	749	1001	3125

*66.5% of total **waitlist** are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 33.5% are gifted assessments

78% of total **referrals are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 22% are gifted assessments

