



## 2017—2018 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Summary

### Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee

The Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is an active committee with a mission to advise, advocate and support processes that meet the educational needs of children with special needs. SEAC also works collaboratively to advocate for effective policies, practices and procedures across Ontario.

#### Community Integration Program

In 2017-2018, HPEDSB piloted a new Community Integration Program (CIP) at three secondary school locations. Programming emphasis was on the completion of Ministry credits, the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) reading program, development of technology skills to support learning, social skills, and work experience. Students in CIP have an opportunity to leave secondary school with an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC), which requires successful completion of a minimum of 14 Ministry credits (7 compulsory, 7 elective courses) which will help prepare them for possible admission to a Community Integration through Co-operative Education College Program. CIP will be offered in all secondary schools next year, which means that students can be offered placement in their home school, pending available space.



In 2017, Loyalist College offered for the first time, the Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE) two-year Ontario Certificate program. The program was designed for students who have intellectual disabilities and learning challenges. Areas of interest included carpentry, art and design foundations, early childhood educator, esthetician, business, recreation and sports services, photo-journalism, chef training, radio broadcasting, film club, child and youth care, and justice studies.



#### Ministry of Education New Vision for Student Transportation



SEAC members provided feedback on the Ministry's New Vision for Student Transportation in Ontario discussion paper, which reflects the needs of students, families, and schools with the goal of forming a new vision for student transportation. The Ministry is re-visioning transportation and efforts are being made to gather feedback from many stakeholders including SEAC, as over 40% of students ride a bus daily.

#### Early Years and Transition to School Process

The SEAC sub-committee along with Student Services personnel and community partners who focused on Early Years, have continued to meet in an effort to enhance the transition to school process. This has resulted in improvements to the 2018 Kindergarten registration process, which now features an online option and increased opportunities for families to become familiar with community supports at upcoming Kindergarten orientation sessions.

#### SEAC Goals and Priorities for 2017-2018

At the SEAC meeting on September 28, 2017, copies of the draft **Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide** were distributed. Committee members were informed that the Ministry of Education had released the draft **Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide** in August 2017 and that the Ministry would continue to gather feedback from sector and stakeholder groups to inform future revisions. As part of SEAC's goal-setting objectives for 2017-2018, members were interested in reviewing the draft Policy and Resource Guide in order to inform their work and also to provide feedback to the Ministry of Education in four selected areas:

1. Individual Education Plans (IEPs);
2. Early Identification;
3. Transition Planning; and
4. Special Education Funding.

The SEAC submitted a letter to the Ministry of Education on January 16, 2018 which included a number of recommendations to the Policy and Resource Guide. As a result of the ongoing commitment of SEAC members, community agency representatives, and members of the Student Services department, communications recently received from the Ministry of Education have incorporated some of the recommendations that were suggested by the HPEDSB SEAC.

