



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday March 2, 2023

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn, and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.

AGENDA

Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEAD				
A-1 Opening 6:00-6:05				
(a) Welcome/ Land Acknowledgement Statement			√	L. DeJong
(b) Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Reminder of Closed Caption Feature on Teams			√	L. DeJong
(c) Agenda Additions/ Deletions/ Approvals		√	√	L. DeJong
LEARN				
B-1 Timed Items 6:05 – 6:25				
(a) OnSIS Data for Students with Special Education Needs 2021-22*	√	√		L. Thompson
(b)				

Learn Lead Inspire



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Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEAD				
C-1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings 6:25-6:45				
(a) Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2023*			√	L. DeJong
(b) Communication Practices between Home and School*	√	√		J. Senior
(c)				
(d)				
LEARN				
D-1 New Business 6:45-7:15				
(a) Overview of changes in Self-contained programs	√	√		J. Senior/F. Lainson/L. Sheppard
(b) Budget input – completion of MS Form	√		√	L. Thompson
Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	
LEAD				
E-1 Other Business 7:15-7:30				
(a) Standard 18 – Coordination of Services with Other Ministries or Agencies	√	√		J. Hooper
(b)				

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Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
INSPIRE				
F-1 Standing Items 7:30-7:40				
Policies Out for Comment The following policies are open for public comment: There are currently no policies open for public comment.	√			L. DeJong
(a) Trustee Updates	√			T. Waldschmidt / L. Whiton
(b) Chair/Vice-Chair Updates	√			L. DeJong / K. Jones
Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEARN LEAD INSPIRE				
G-1 Information Items				
(a)				
(b)				
LEARN LEAD INSPIRE				
H-1 Community Updates				
(a)				
(b)				

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AGENDA

LEARN LEAD INSPIRE

I-1 Correspondence – 7:40-7:45

(a) LDAO Circular February 2023*

√

L. DeJong

Item

Info.

Dia.

Res.

Responsibility

INSPIRE

J-1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

(a) A Day in the Life of a Learning Resource Teacher (April 2023)

(b) OSSTF Inclusion Symposium - Summary Report (present when it arrives)

(c) Street Data - Summer Programs (May 2023)

(d) Report on the Right to Read – Update (June 2023)

(e)

(f)

K-1 Next Meeting

Thursday April 6, 2023 6:00 p.m. MS Teams

√

√

√

L. DeJong

L-1 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at p.m.

√

L. DeJong

Learn Lead Inspire



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AGENDA

Note: Column Abbreviations

* Attachments to the agenda

Info. Item for information only

Dia. Item for dialogue

Res. Item for resolution or recommendation

SSMT Specialized Services Management Team

AGENDA ITEM(S)

Standing:

- LDAO SEAC Circular September, November, February, April and June (as available).



Grand Erie District School Board

Trends in Special Education

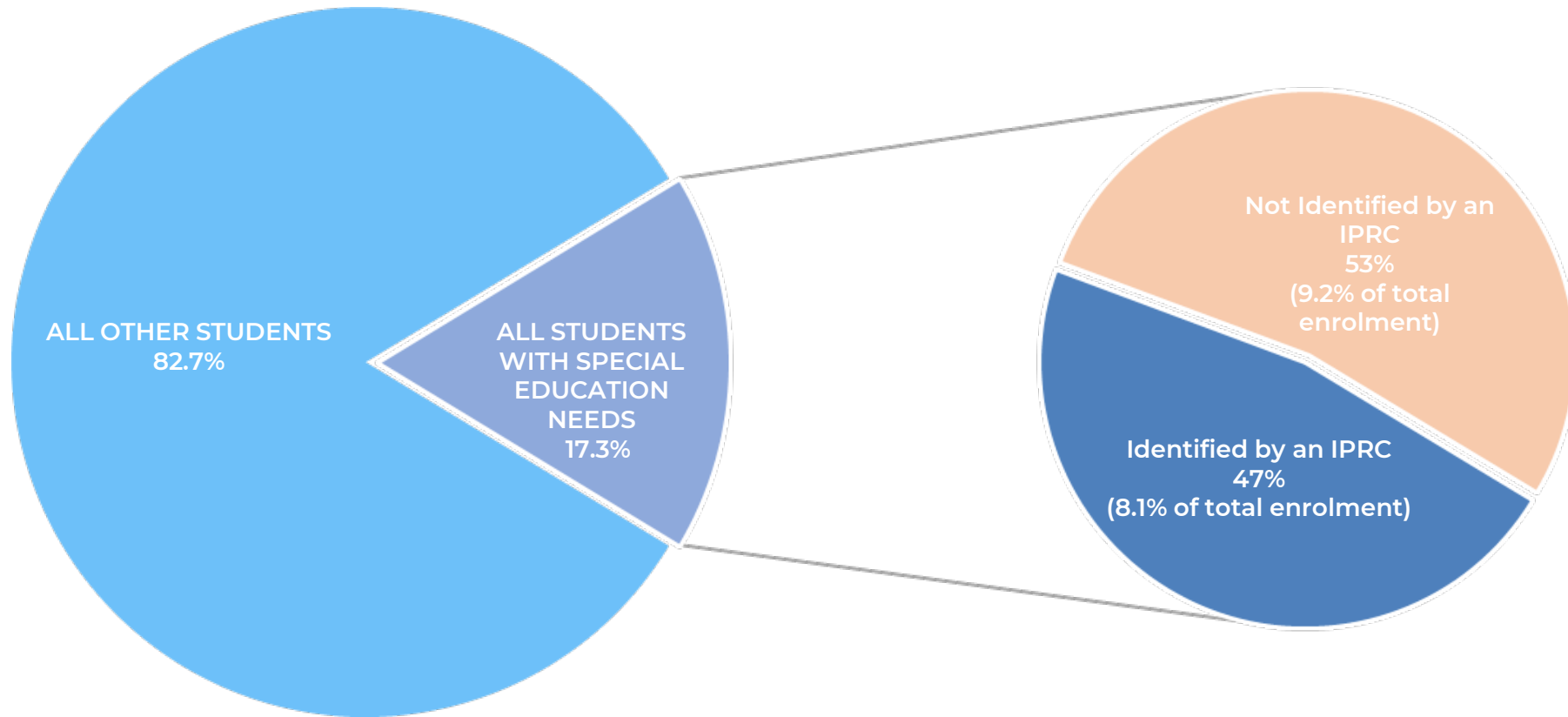
Demographics



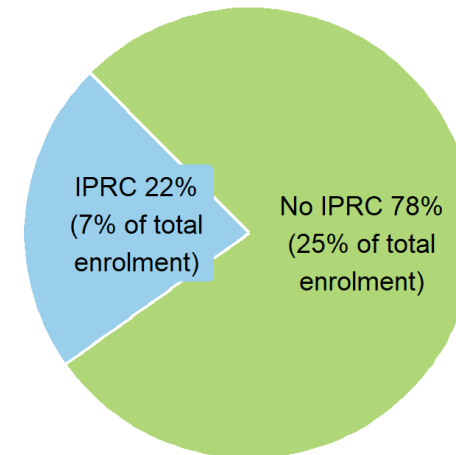
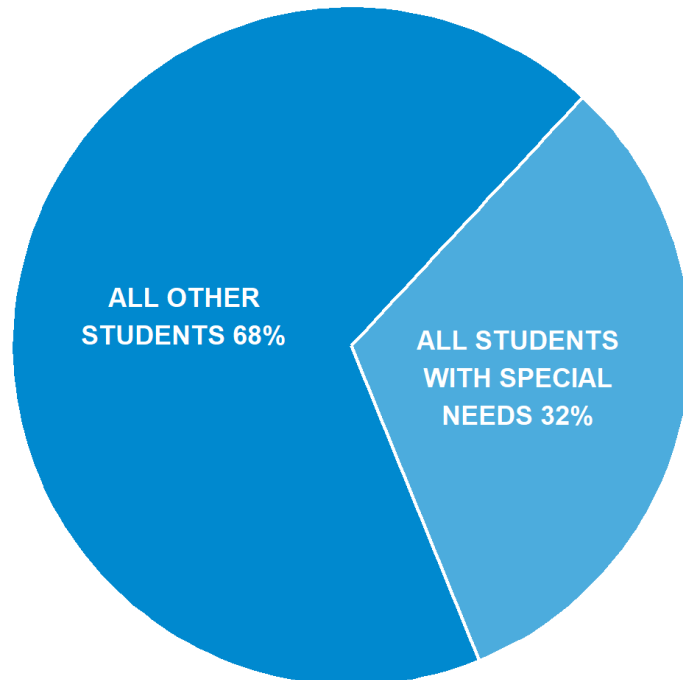
In the 2021-2022 school year 8955 students, or 32% of all students received special education programs and/or services.

Classroom Placement: Approximately 95% of all students receiving special education programs and/or services were placed in regular classrooms for more than half of the instructional day.

Demographics in Ontario



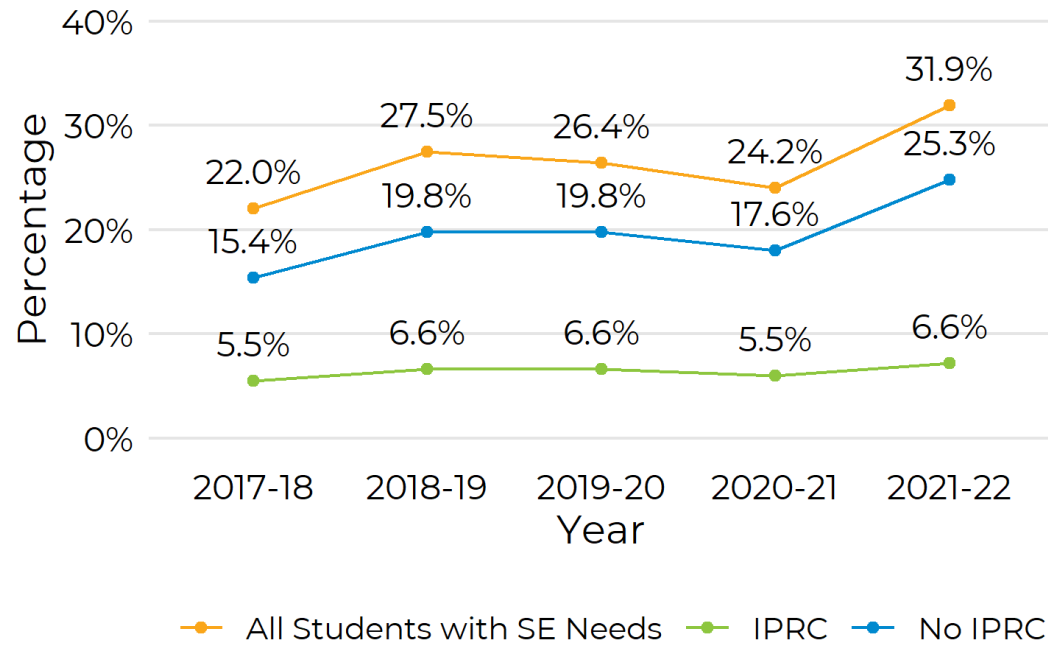
Demographics in Grand Erie



Special Education Over Time

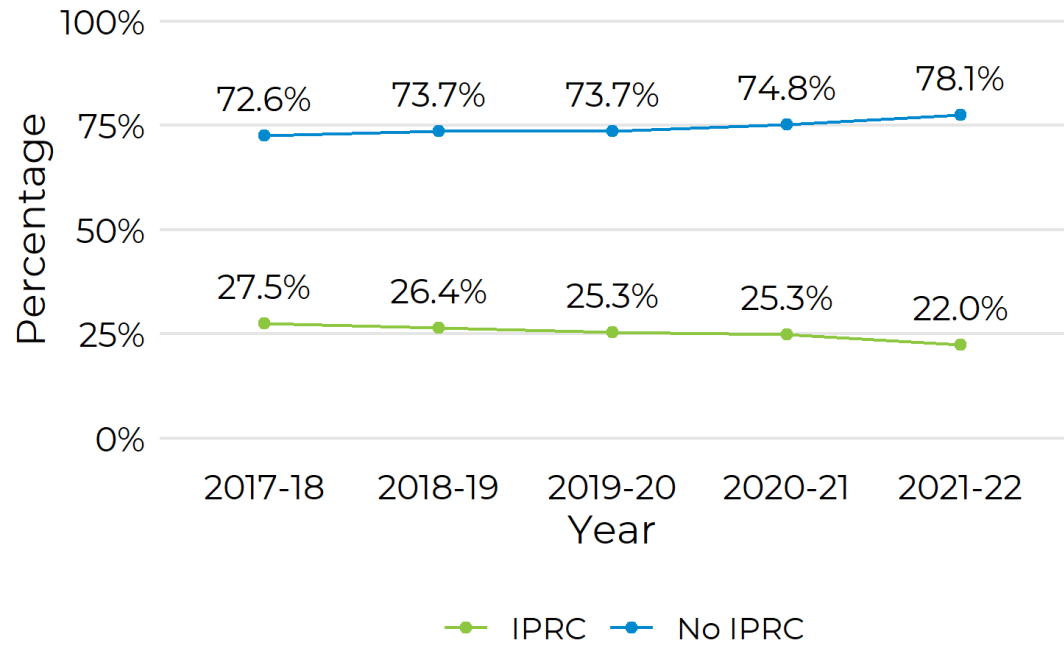


Percentage of IPRC'd, not IPRC'd and Total All Students with Special Education Needs



IPRC'd vs. Not IPRC'd

As percentage of All Students with Special Education Needs



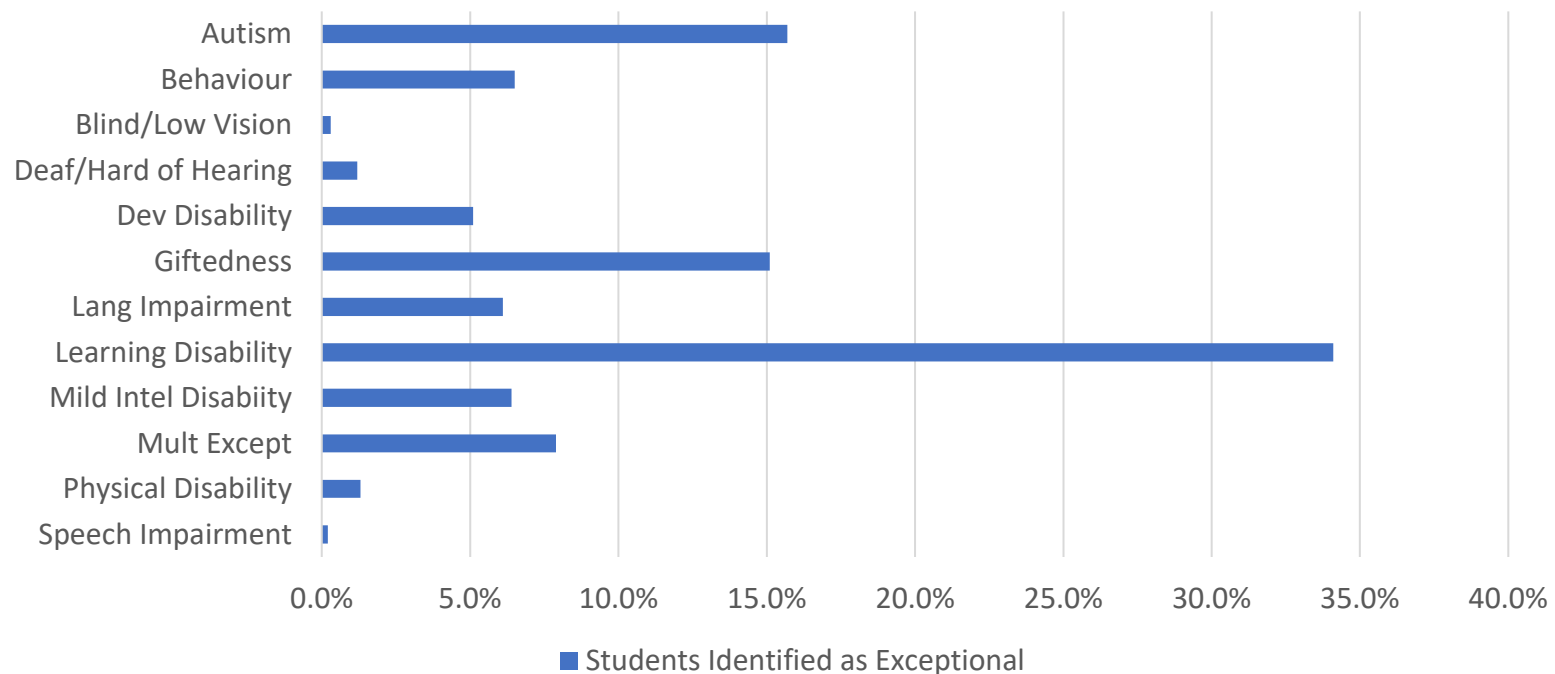
Students Identified as Exceptional in Ontario



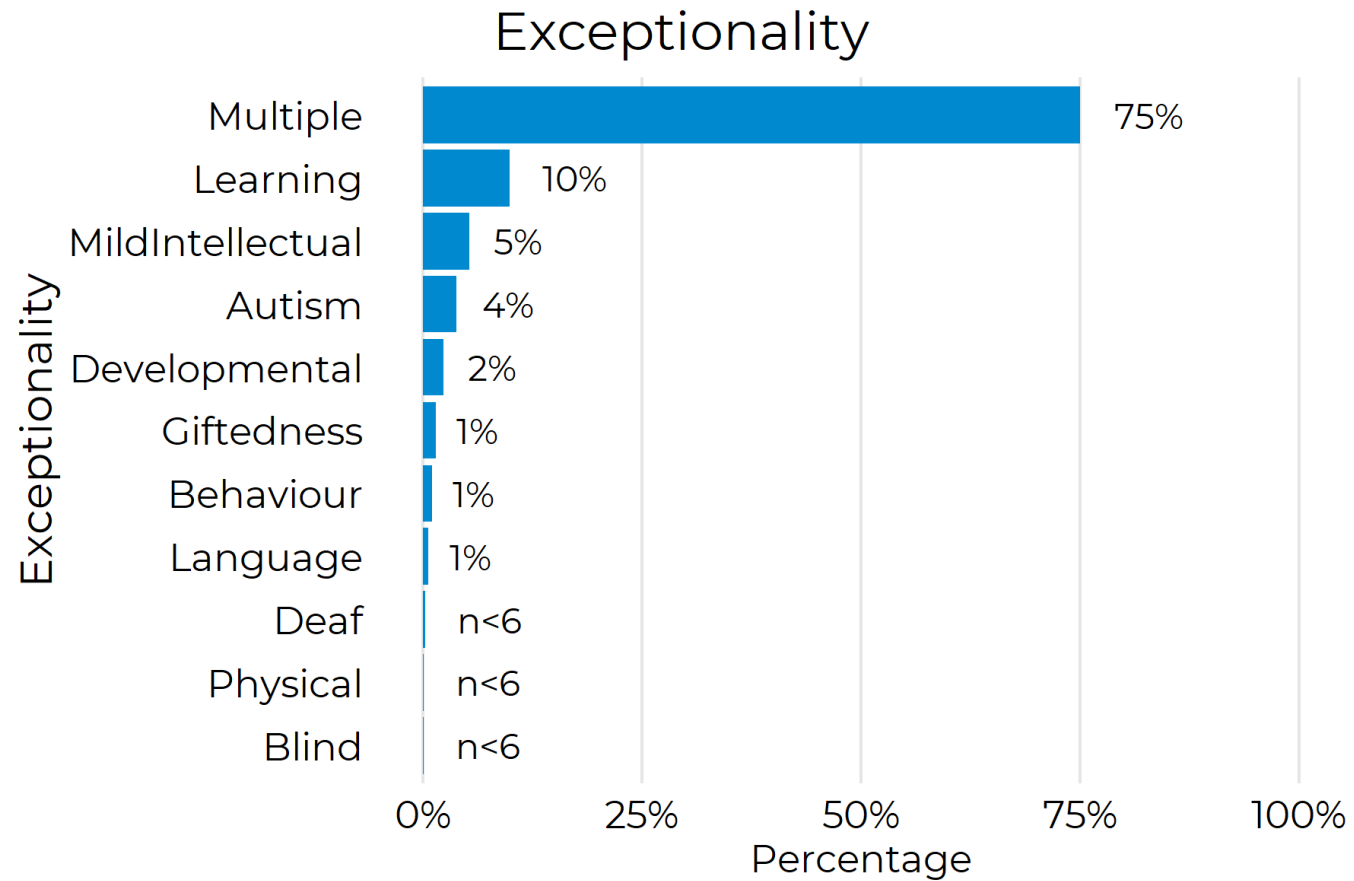
Number of students identified as “exceptional”

In the 2020-21** school year, 164,899 students were identified as “exceptional” by school board IPRC*. This represents just under half of the students reported by school boards as receiving special education programs and services (47% in 2020-21**).

Students Identified as Exceptional



Students Identified as Exceptional in Grand Erie (n = 2005)



Suspension and Expulsion Data in Ontario



Summary of suspensions in the 2019–2020 school year

- 46,990 students or 2.21% of all students attending Ontario schools were suspended.
- 71,135 total suspensions were issued, accounting for multiple suspensions for individual students.
- 21,370 suspensions or 45.5% of total suspensions were elementary students (1.46% of all elementary students).
- 25,620 suspensions or 54.5% of total suspensions were secondary students (3.90% of all secondary students).
- The suspension rate among boards in 2019–2020 ranged from 0.05% of students to 6.54% of students.

Students with special education needs

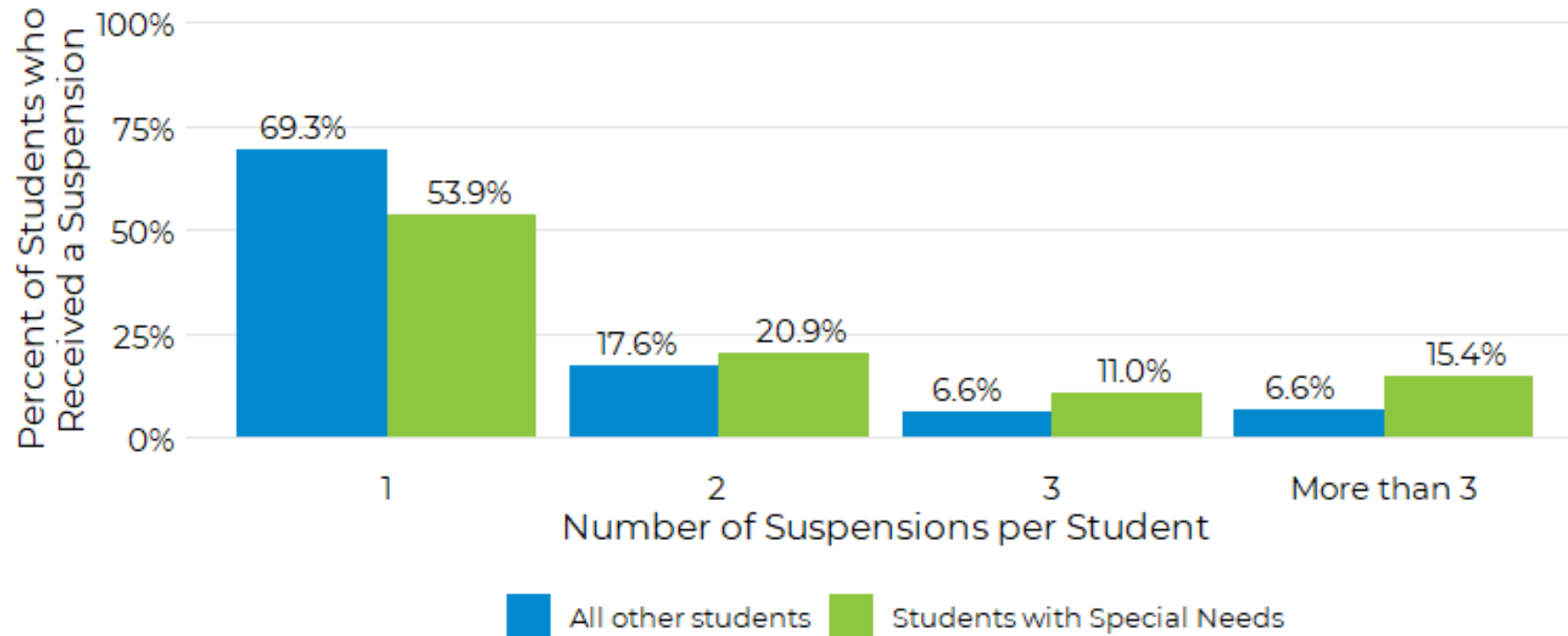
- 21,750 suspensions or 46.29% of suspended students were students with special education needs (5.35% of all students with special education needs).

Note: Reporting for 2020-21 is still being finalized

Suspension Data in Grand Erie



Number of Suspensions
Students with Special Needs and All Other Students

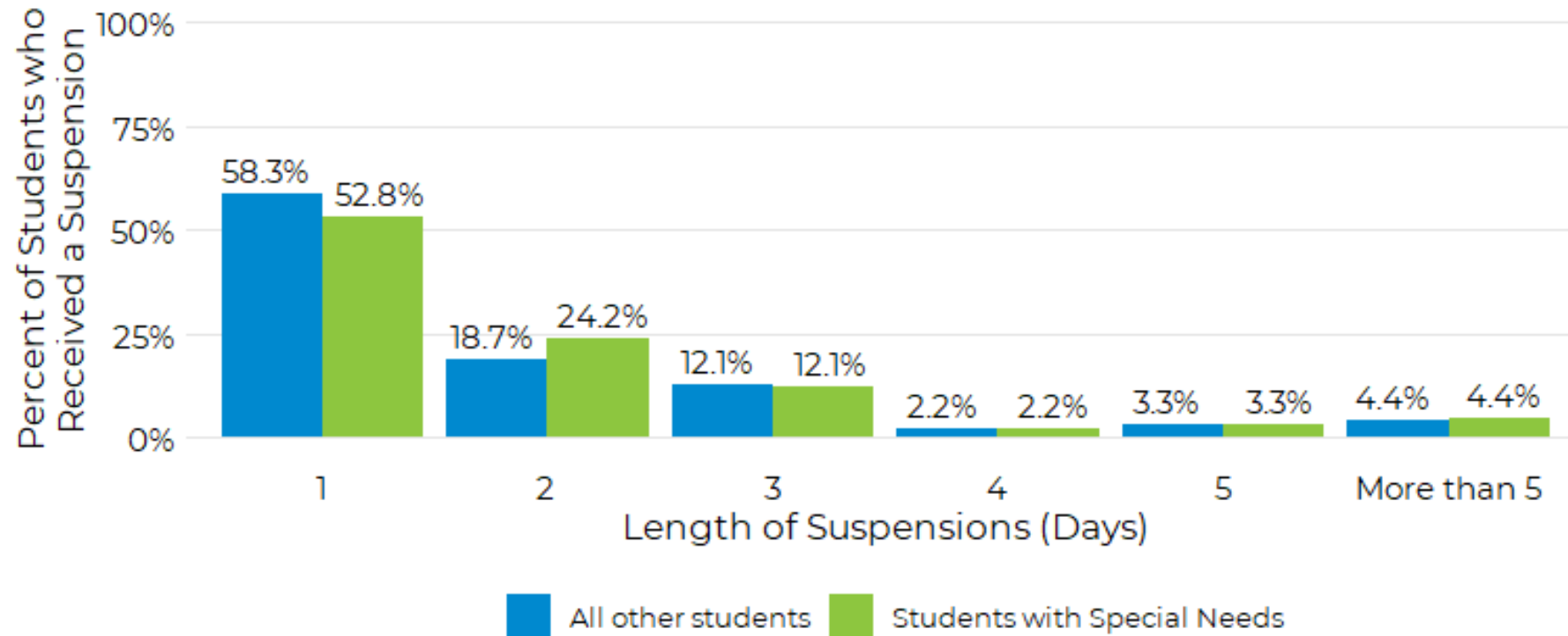


Suspension Data in Grand Erie



Length of Suspensions

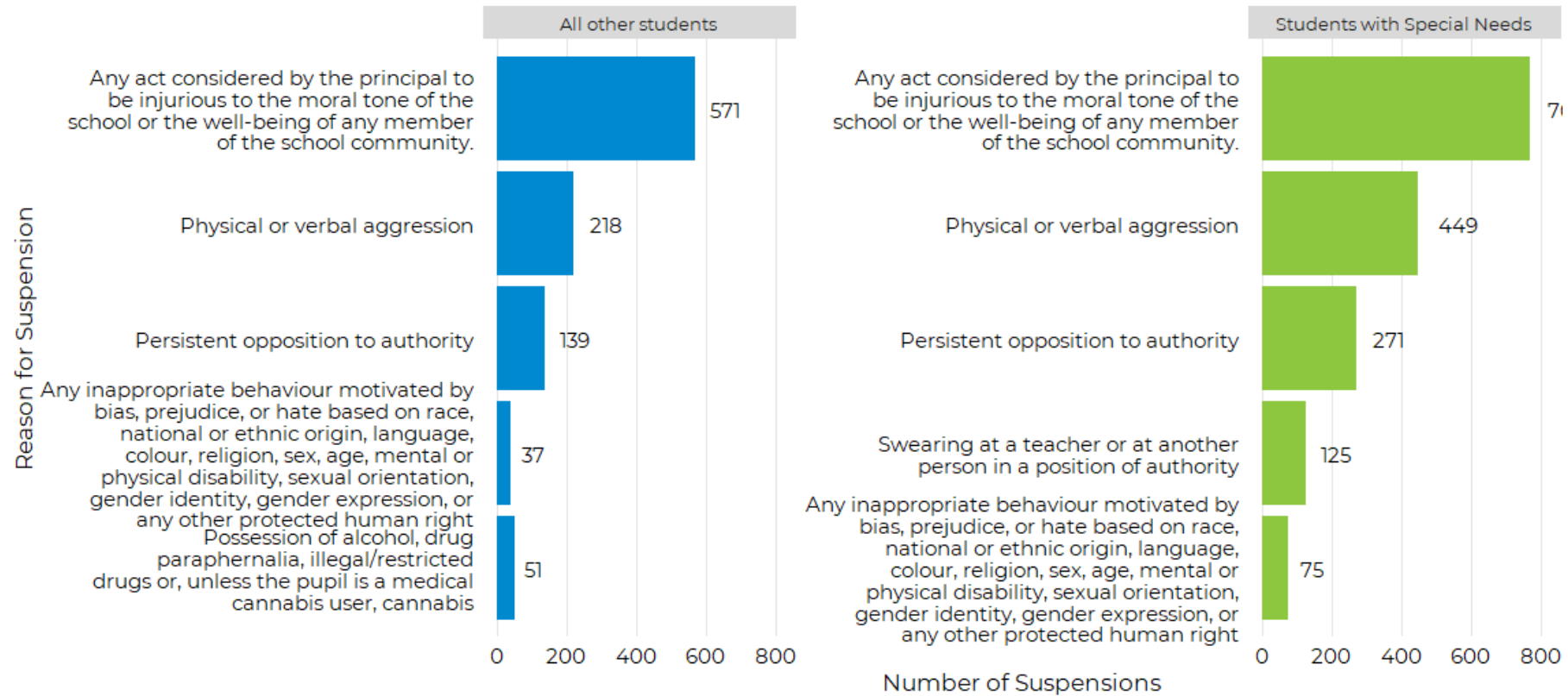
Students with Special Needs and All Other Students



Suspension Data in Grand Erie



Top 5 Reasons for Suspension
Students with Special Needs and All Other Students





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MINUTES

Chair:	L. DeJong, Social Worker, Lansdowne Children's Centre
Community Reps:	M. Gatopoulos K. Jones L. Nydam W. Rose B. Bruce
Trustees:	T. Waldschmidt L. Whiton P. Bagchee, Manager, Mental Health and Well-Being J. Hooper, Principal Leader Mental Health Education and Student Support Services
Grand Erie Staff:	F. Lainson, Program Co-ordinator Specialized Services J. Senior, Principal Leader, Specialized Services L. Sheppard, Applied Behaviour Analysis Coordinator L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education M. Tokaci, Information Technology T. Buchanan, Supervisor of Employment Supports, Community Living Brant
Organizations/ Agencies:	L. Boswell, Community Navigator, Contact Brant C. Gilman, Easter Seals Ontario R. Vriends, Autism Ontario P. Ashe, Principal Leader, Safe & Inclusive Schools
Guests:	W. Baker, Superintendent of Education R. Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business
Absent with regrets:	K. Kelly, Community Representative C. Stefanelli, Community Representative
Recording Secretary:	J. Valstar, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Education

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Chair DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

M. Tokaci, Information Technology informed members of the YouTube livestream. Superintendent Thompson reminded members of the closed caption feature available in MS Teams.

(c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: W. Rose

Seconded by: T. Buchanan

THAT the February 2, 2023 Agenda be approved, as presented

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Welcome – Principal Leader of Specialized Services**

Superintendent Thompson introduced Grand Erie's new Principal Leader of Specialized Services, J. Senior.



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MINUTES

- (b) **Welcome – new SEAC member**
Chair DeJong introduced a new SEAC member from Autism Ontario, R. Vriends.
- (c) **Financial Update – 2022-23 – A review of special education funding, grants, expenditures and reserves 2022-23**
Superintendent Wyszynski presented a review of special education financials from the 2022-23 school year.
- (d) **2023-24 Budget Process**
Superintendent Wyszynski explained the budget process for the 2023-24 school year and addressed questions from members.
- C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**
- (a) **Approval of Minutes**
D-1 (d): Amended to include that this portal is available to the general public at www.disability-supports.ca
- Moved by: W. Rose
Seconded by: L. Boswell
THAT the Minutes dated January 12, 2023 be approved, as amended.
Carried
- (b) **Supporting Students with Special Education Needs from a Safe and Inclusive Schools Lens**
Principal Leader, Safe & Inclusive Schools P. Ashe explained the role of the Safe and Inclusive Schools Team in Grand Erie and addressed questions from members.
- (c) **Equity Work – Gathering the Voices of Students with Special Education Needs and their Families**
Principal Leader, Safe & Inclusive Schools P. Ashe explained how the Safe and Inclusive Schools Team gathers data on equity and addressed questions from members.
- D - 1 **New Business**
- (a) **Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) - Updates**
Principal Leader Mental Health Education and Student Support Services J. Hooper provided members with an overview of the RSEC Conference some of the Specialized Services staff attended in January 2023.
- E - 1 **Other Business** - Nil
- F - 1 **Standing Items**
- (a) **Policies Out for Comment**
Vice Chair Jones reviewed the policies that are out for comment until February 15, 2023, as listed in the SEAC meeting package, and explained the new structure of policies vs. procedures.



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(b) **Trustee Updates**

Trustees Waldschmidt and Whiton shared their respective updates.

(c) **Chair/Vice Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice Chair Jones gave their respective updates. Chair DeJong noted the orientation for new SEAC members will be held via MS Teams on March 2, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., prior to the SEAC meeting. All SEAC members are invited to attend.

G - 1 **Information Items** - Nil

H - 1 **Community Updates** - Nil

I - 1 **Correspondence** - Nil

J - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

(a) **Communication Practices Between Home and School**

(b) **A Day in the Life of a Learning Resource Teacher**

(c) **OnSIS Data for Students with Special Education needs 2021-22**

(d) **OSSTF Inclusion Symposium – Summary Report**

(e) **Street Data – Summer Programs**

(f) **Orientation Meeting for New Members**

(g) **Report on the Right to Read - Update**

K - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday March 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., MS Teams Virtual Meeting.

L - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: W. Rose

Seconded by: L. Boswell

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

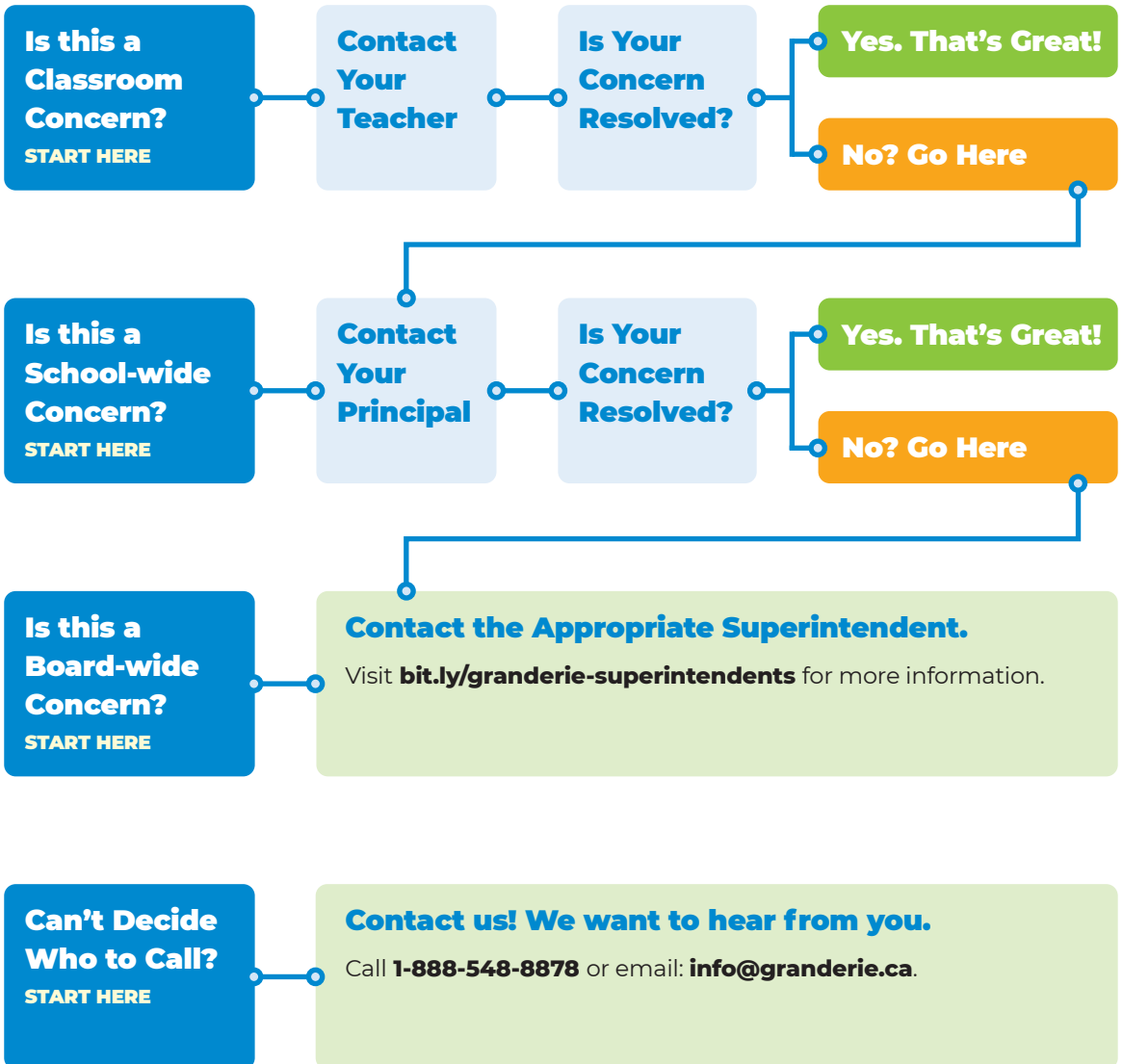
Carried

Parent/Caregiver/ Community Member Concern Chart



We're Here to Help

Find out who to contact at Grand Erie using this helpful resource.

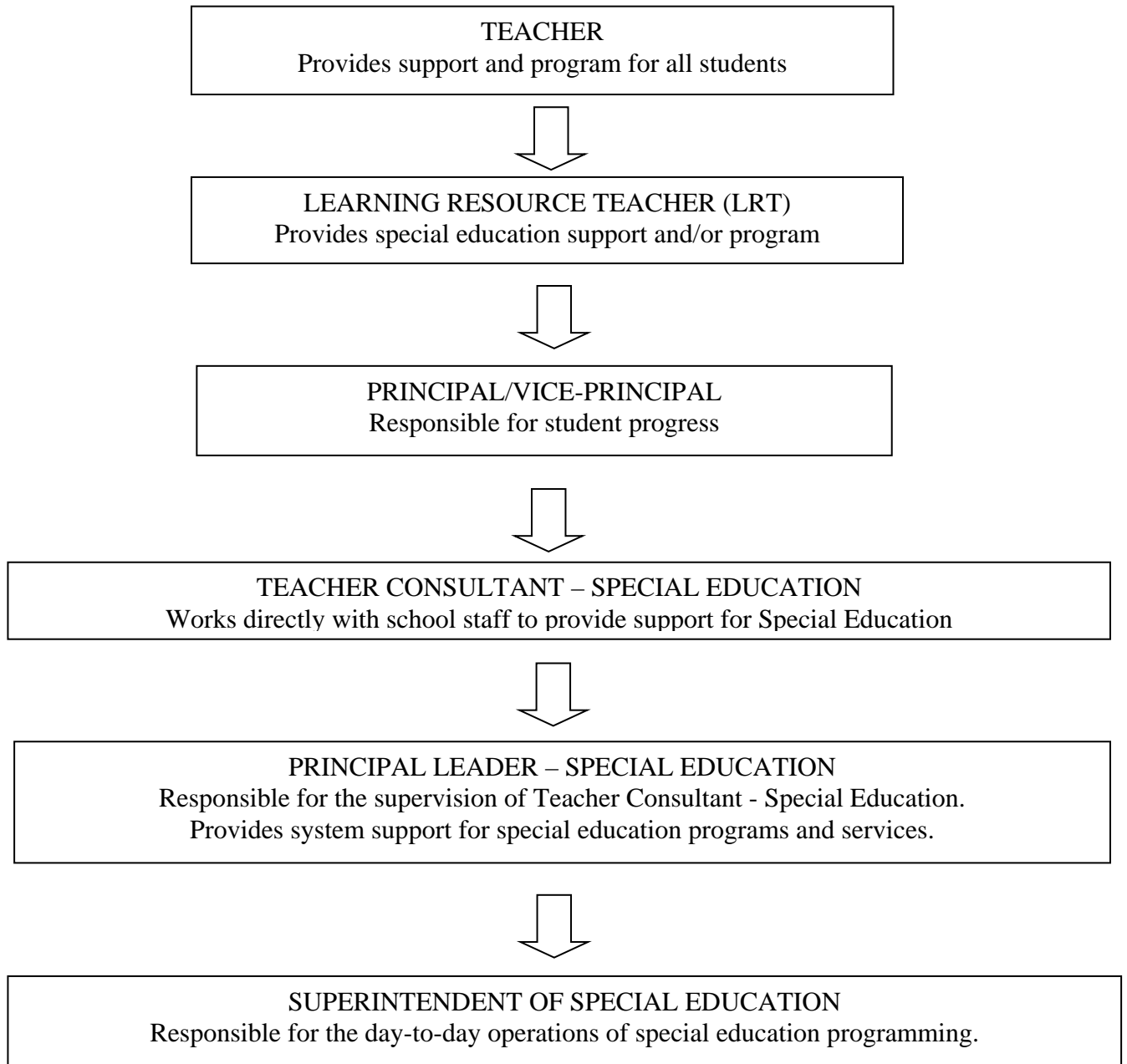


Your Trustee can guide you through this process.

Find your Superintendent and Trustee Representative at granderie.ca/board/about/trustees

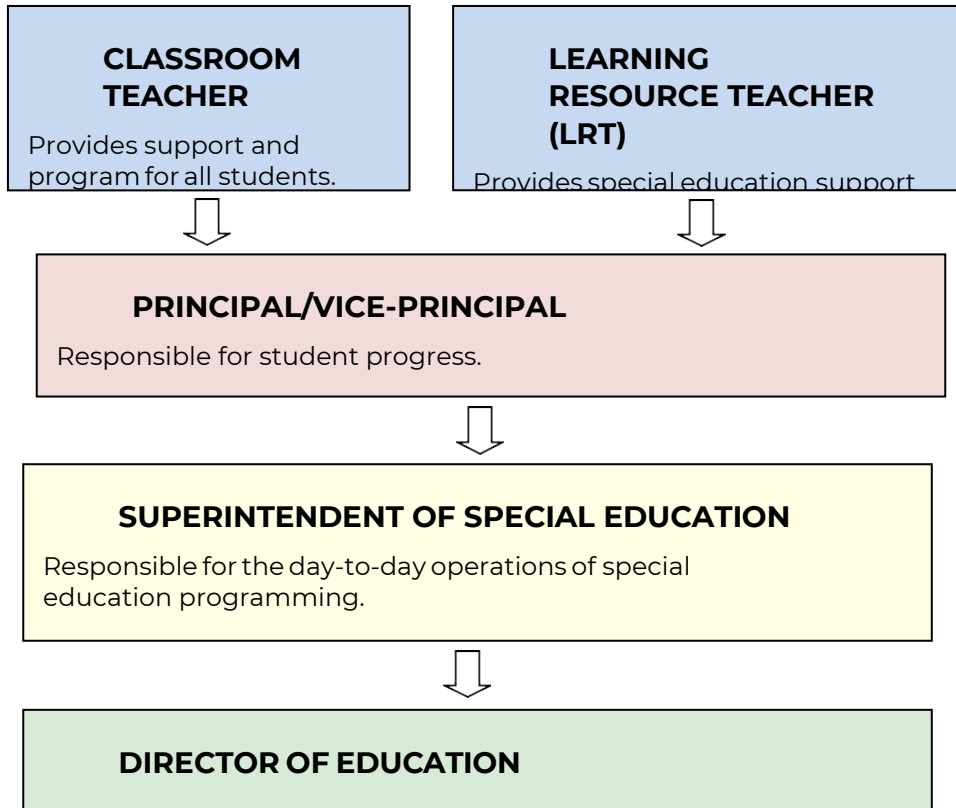
10. 2 Dispute Resolution Process

Collaboration between school staff and parents is essential. When parents have questions or concerns about their child's Individual Education Plan, or special education programming, these are best addressed at the school level, always beginning with the classroom teacher. The chart below indicates the appropriate steps to follow if a parent/guardian feels that a question or concern has not been adequately addressed:



10.3 School and System Level Audits of IEPs

In the Spring of 2014, Grand Erie central Special Education staff audited 10 % of IEPs of all students in Grades 2,4,7, and 11. The Ministry template for auditing IEPs was utilized. In addition, elementary schools were provided with release funds in order to engage in a collaborative review of 20% of their IEPs, using the Ministry template. These sessions were facilitated by Teacher Consultants – Special Education throughout the Board. At the secondary level, teams participated in a collaborative review session, facilitated by system Special Education staff to audit 10% of their IEPs (to a maximum of 20 IEPs). (see Ministry Audit Template – Appendix N)



Teacher Consultants for Special Education are assigned to specific schools and work directly with school staff to provide special education support. The Principal Leader for Special Education provides system support for special education programs and services. These staff are also available to assist parents with questions or concerns related to a student's Individual Education Plan. A school principal may arrange a meeting between parents, school staff, system staff, and/or the Superintendent of Special Education in order to seek a mutual understanding.

Parents may not agree with everything in an IEP, or the focus may differ from their requests. Schools are responsible for establishing a program that best suits a child's strengths and needs while at school. The school principal is ultimately responsible for the initiation, implementation, and review of the IEP and ensuring that the parent is consulted in its development. The principal is not obliged to accept every parental suggestion but must give appropriate consideration to requests. The principal should provide reasons for not including parental requests in the IEP. If parents disagree with significant aspects of the IEP, they may request a meeting with appropriate school and board staff.

If all attempts at dispute resolution related to the IEP have been unsuccessful, a parent may contact the Ministry of Education for clarification or assistance. The Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario may also assist. The Ontario Ombudsman oversees all aspects of public education in Ontario and can help with unresolved complaints or investigate systemic issues. Parents can fill out an online complaint form with the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario, call 1-800-263-1830, or email for assistance at info@ombudsman.on.ca.

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/.

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

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 27th** and information can be found at: 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