



Grand Erie District School Board

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December 7, 2017

Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Support & Field Services Division
Ministry of Education
Mowat Block 22nd Flr.,
900 Bay St
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Dear Assistant Deputy Minister Beckett:

Re: Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Grand Erie DSB SEAC members recently reviewed the October 25, 2017 Memorandum sent by your office and were so pleased to learn there are plans to increase skills for students with autism through targeted training for Educational Assistants and dedicated space for ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) service.

We understand this is a pilot project and that Grand Erie was not one of the 18 school boards selected to participate, but are writing to ask if at all possible to have our Educational Assistants access the 40 hours of online training which will certainly be beneficial to our students? The importance of early intervention, we know, is the key to reaching students on the Autism Spectrum and critical to helping them to attain their full potential and experience academic achievement.

Also, we would be very interested to see a report on the success of the pilot as it relates to increased student achievement.

Sincerely,

R. Collver, Interim Chair
Grand Erie DSB Special Education Advisory Committee

c: The Hon. Michael Coteau, Minister of Children and Youth Services
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Chairs Ontario District School Boards and Authorities
Chairs Ontario School Boards and School Authorities

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