

## **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**May 12, 2025**

### **Leadership Report**

#### **Student Learning and Equitable Outcomes**

Louise Sirisko, Associate Director, Learning Innovation and Equitable Outcomes  
Nandy Palmer, Executive Superintendent, Special Education Programs and Equitable Outcomes  
Debbie Donsky, System Superintendent, Special Education and Inclusion

#### **Special Education Plan 2025-2026**

Each year, school districts review their Special Education Plans and make amendments if needed. The [Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans](#) outlines what must be included in a district's Special Education Plan. The TDSB SEAC Special Education Plan Working Group sought feedback from SEAC members on the current year's plan. Staff sincerely thanks the group for their work. Recommendations from the committee as well as recommendations from families, community partners and school and department staff were taken under advisement and amendments made as appropriate in order to ensure alignment with Ministry standards and to create a more comprehensible and accessible document. The amendments, attached to this report, will go to the Board of Trustees for approval so that they can be submitted with the full plan to the Ministry.

#### **May Learning Sessions for Staff and Families**

Learning and engagement sessions continue to be made available for both staff and families, providing valuable opportunities to explore inclusive and anti-ableist practices and implement concrete strategies in the classroom and at home.

These sessions are designed to support student achievement and well-being. Please see link to the [May Session](#).

#### **May Newsletter for Families**

The Special Education and Inclusion Department is pleased to share the [May 2025 Parent/Guardian Special Education and Inclusion Newsletter](#). All newsletters for parents/guardians/caregivers (PDF and accessible Word) can be found on the [external TDSB site](#). These newsletters provide valuable and updated information related to Special Education and Inclusion for families.

#### **Parent /Guardian/Caregiver Session: Supporting Students with ADHD**

Special Education and Inclusion will host a session to explore strategies and resources to support students diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am



Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Principals were asked to share this [flyer](#) with their school communities.

### **Graduation Fair for Students with Disabilities/Special Education Needs and Their Families**

The Special Education and Inclusion Department invites students preparing for graduation and life beyond school to an in-person event on May 14th from 5-8 p.m. The Fair will feature a variety of information booths, including Community Support Services and Post-21 Programs, Employment Assistance Agencies, and Academic Institutions & Accessibility Services Offices. Learn more in the [event flyer](#) or [register online](#).

### **ASD Skills Development Program Summer 2025 Session**

The summer 2025 session of the ASD Skills Development Program will run from **July 2-25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at various locations across the TDSB. Principals were asked to share the [ASD Summer Skills Development Program - Parent Letter](#) which includes the link for registration to the families of the students with ASD going into Grades 4 -10 (currently students in Grade 3 - 9).

Registration deadline is **Friday, May 30, 2025**. Spaces in the program are limited and enrollment is on a first-come first-serve basis.

### **Inclusive Community Summer Camp Programs**

With summer around the corner, families may be looking for various opportunities for summer camp programming. Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy (OT/PT) Services annually summarizes [inclusive summer camp programming](#) opportunities for families.

### **Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Education Needs**

As part of the Ministry's 2024–25 initiative to strengthen post-secondary transition supports for students with special education needs, the Toronto District School Board has actively integrated this work into the role of its Transition Navigators. With the Ministry's new timed funding, TDSB Transition Navigators are not only supporting students and families directly, but are also contributing to the broader provincial effort to build a centralized, accessible Transition Resource website. The [TDSB K-12 Transitions Site](#), previously shared with SEAC, families and staff, has been updated to include the following resources: [Transitions Guide for Students with Disabilities](#) and [Preparing Literacy and Numeracy Skills for Employment](#). These are linked online hubs that provide families and educators with practical tools, checklists, and information to help students with disabilities and special education needs build essential skills and navigate pathways to post-secondary education, employment, apprenticeship, or community living. These resources support families and educators in planning successful, individualized transitions for their children.

### **Matteo's Story**

[Matteo's Story: HOW I LEARN - April, 2025](#)

From Matteo's Dad:

This film demonstrates the power of community, and celebrates Oriole Park's great contribution to



Matteo's learning and feeling of belonging. For four years now I have been making new films about learning differences and inclusion to mark World Down Syndrome Day. Using this film as a conversation starter, I have visited many Toronto area schools and given volunteer presentations about learning differences and inclusion. The presentation includes screening the film, and discussion and interactive dramatic role play, where students get a chance to play the part of Matteo and his peers.

This film encourages discussions about tolerance, acceptance, and learning together. It is my hope that this film can be screened throughout TDSB schools and beyond and be leveraged to support efforts for inclusion and equity.

For your reference, here are links to the previous films in the series:

- [How I Learn \(Matteo\) – 2024 - 8.5 min](#)
- [How I Learn \(Matteo\) – 2023 - 5 min](#)
- [How Matteo Learns – 2022 5 min](#)

### **National AccessAbility Week (May 25–31, 2025)**

National AccessAbility Week is a time to promote accessibility and inclusion across Canada, celebrate the contributions of people with disabilities, and recognize those working to remove barriers. Greater inclusion benefits not only individuals with disabilities but also businesses, the economy, and society as a whole.

### **Red Shirt Day (May 28, 2025)**

Held during National AccessAbility Week, Red Shirt Day invites Canadians to wear red in support of people living with disabilities. It's a day to show solidarity, celebrate achievements, and commit to building a more accessible and inclusive Canada.

### **May is Speech and Hearing Month**

TDSB is proud to support and celebrate the unique voices of all students. This month, we're shining a spotlight on *stuttering*—a speech difference that affects how a person talks. Our goal is to raise awareness and share simple, practical ways families and educators can support students who stutter, both in the classroom and at home. Daily announcements created by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services were shared with schools to include in their morning messages.

For resources, check out [Speech-Language and Audiology Canada](#).

### **May is Community Living Month**

Community Living Ontario (CLO) organizes *Community Living Month* each May to promote inclusion and celebrate the achievements of over 100,000 people in Ontario with intellectual disabilities. The campaign raises awareness about the challenges they face, including stereotypes and exclusion, and highlights their value and potential. CLO envisions a society where everyone has equal rights, respect, and opportunities. The campaign involves 115+ local associations and emphasizes that *#InclusionMatters*, especially for students and families. More information is available at [CommunityLivingToronto](#).

Join Community Living Ontario and their [115+ local associations across Ontario](#) as we show why



#InclusionMatters for students who have an intellectual disability and their families. For more information, please visit [CommunityLivingToronto](https://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca/).

**IPRC Data - April 2025**

April IPRCs	
Learning Centre 1	605
Learning Centre 2	434
Central	11
IPRCs Completed	1050
IPRC Cumulative since August 2024	
IPRC Cumulative since August 2024	2491

**Psychological Assessment Data - April 2025**





## Psychological Services Assessment Statistics

**tdsb** | Special Education  
and Inclusion

**April 2025**

Month-By-Month	Total
Completed	373
Referrals	439

Cumulative (since September 2024)	
Completed	2823
In Progress	764
Removed	394
Waiting*	1138
Total Referrals**	5119

*\*92% of total waitlist are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 8% are gifted assessments*

*\*\*76% of total referrals are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 24% are gifted assessments*