



Section M:

Equipment

We value your feedback! Please click [this feedback link](#) to leave your comments on the Special Education Plan. All feedback must be received by February 28, 2027.

Purpose of the Standard

To inform the ministry, board staff members and other professionals, and parents about the provision of individualized equipment for some students with special needs

Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) Funding

The Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) funding from the Ministry of Education assists with the costs of equipment essential to supporting students with special education needs and disabilities in accessing the curriculum, in accessing an alternative program and/or course, and in attending school.

SEA funding is made up of two components (Formula Component and Claims-Based Component) which are allocated by the TDSB through a process that follows the [Ministry of Education's Specialized Equipment Allocation Directives](#).

SEA - Claims-Based Component

The Claims-Based Component supports the purchase of any single item (any equipment-type technology related or not) costing \$5,000 or over before taxes for an individual student with special education needs.

Students with disabilities and special education needs may be eligible for equipment to help them access learning through Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) funding. SEA funding helps cover the cost of equipment for students with special education needs to participate in school and programs.

Students do not have to be identified as exceptional through the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) process to be eligible for equipment funded through SEA.

Students are supported by school based staff along with guidance and training from Professional Support Services (e.g., Speech-Language Pathologists or Occupational Therapists/Physiotherapists) and Special Education and Inclusion Teams (Vision, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Assistive Technology). The training and support provided depends on the type of equipment received.



The AT/SEA team also supports the documentation required for SEA claims, and supports the purchasing, distribution and maintenance of recommended equipment. The Central Coordinator also supports the documentation required for Ministry Special Incidence Portion (SIP) claims.

Criteria for Eligibility

Eligible students are those for whom specialized equipment is determined to be directly required and essential for attending school, accessing the Ontario curriculum, and/or supporting or augmenting a board-determined alternative program and/or course.

Students do not have to be identified as exceptional pupils through the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) process to be eligible for equipment funded through SEA. However, students must be receiving special education programs and services and the use of SEA-funded equipment must be indicated in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). The student's equipment needs must be documented by an assessment or assessments from an appropriately qualified professional for claims-based components.

Examples of Claims-Based Component Items:

- Customized gross motor equipment
- Ceiling lifts, portable person lifts and/or harnesses
- Specialized communication devices such as eye gaze

SEA - Formula Component

The SEA Formula Component funds the purchase of any equipment type, technology related or not, training, maintenance, and repairs related to that equipment, for students with special education needs and disabilities. This funding is used to purchase equipment assigned to individual students as well as licenses for specific software to access the curriculum.

This component is also utilized to support training in the use of SEA devices and the integration of assistive technology to effectively meet the needs of students with special education needs, and also to support the maintenance of SEA devices and inventory management of all SEA equipment.

Examples of Formula Component Items:

- Hardware and peripherals/accessories
- Print enlargers for students with low vision
- Computer hardware for Blind/Low-Vision

- Adjustable desks
- Braille
- Symbol or letter voice translators
- FM systems
- Sensory input equipment
- Positioning devices for sitting, standing and lying
- Personal care items such as change tables or commodes
- Assistive technology programs, apps and software
- Mid-tech or high-tech Alternative and Augmentative (AAC) devices
- Warranties and/or service contracts for SEA equipment
- Training and professional learning for students and staff on the use of SEA-purchased equipment and assistive technology programs

Portability/Transferring Equipment

In consultation with the principal, students' equipment (e.g., a SEA Chromebook, 1:1 SEA iPad, SEA laptop) should be made available in any setting where it may be used to access learning. This could include the immediate school environment, home, or before/after school programming.

When a student who has received Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) equipment moves from the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to a different school board, school authority, Care and Treatment Education Programs (CTEP)/Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP), or hospital school authority in Ontario, the SEA equipment must accompany the student.

However, if the new district school board, school authority, CTEP/ECPP, or hospital school authority deems it impractical, the equipment may remain and be used for other students with special education needs and disabilities in the TDSB.

The final decision as to whether it is practical to transfer such equipment will be made by the new district school board, school authority, CTEP/ECPP or hospital school authority. The new district school board, school authority, CTEP/ECPP or hospital school authority will be responsible for any shipping or handling costs associated with the timely and effective transfer of equipment. SEA Equipment does not transfer to private schools, post-secondary institutions, employment settings, home-schooling, or out of province/country schools.



Assistive Technology (AT) and Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) Team

The AT and SEA Team supports students and staff to effectively use assistive technology and SEA equipment across the TDSB. The role of the team is to collaborate with centrally-assigned and school-based staff to integrate assistive technology as an effective teaching and learning tool in the classroom, and to build capacity of school-based staff to share best practices and create environments where assistive technology is used to support engagement, representation, action, and expression (principles of Universal Design for Learning).

Ongoing professional learning and training provided by the AT and SEA Team is guided by culturally relevant and responsive programming and anti-ableist accommodation strategies for students with special education needs and/or disabilities. More resources and information can be found on the [Assistive Technology website](#).

The team provides district-wide opportunities for:

- School-based staff to engage in Professional Learning Communities focusing on the use, implementation and integration of assistive technology and sharing of best practices;
- School-based staff to use a co-planning and co-teaching model of support to incorporate the use of assistive technology to promote inclusion opportunities as outlined in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals of the school;
- Direct instruction on the various AT tools and programs to support students in a wide variety of classroom settings;
- Parents to learn about using assistive technology tools and programs through a public website and at conferences;
- School-based staff to access support during the development of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) around embedding appropriate AT tools and programs to match students' learning profiles; and
- Mentorship and instruction to system leaders to embed and incorporate AT tools and programs to align with other central initiatives.

Additional information and resources for families are available on the [TDSB AT/SEA website](#).