



*Growing Excellence...
Inspiring Success*

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

S.E.A.C.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

~ Serving Students with Exceptional Needs ~

The Grand Erie District School Board believes every student has individual learning needs. Some students have exceptional learning needs and may require special programs and services.

A student with exceptional needs is a learner whose behaviour, communication, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that he/she is considered to need special education programs as defined in the Education Act.

This brochure has been produced to inform the community, parents/guardians and educators about the Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)

SPECIAL EDUCATION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

It is the policy of the Grand Erie District School Board that special education services within the Board are guided by the following principles:

1. Public education is group education.
2. The diversity of our student population is valued and informs program and delivery.
3. Fostering an inclusive culture in schools is paramount.
4. Educational resources are allocated to reach educational goals.
5. Resources are organized to support the classroom teacher.
6. The classroom teacher is the greatest resource in the education system.
7. Placement options are guided by least restrictive/most enabling environments for learning.

What is S.E.A.C.?

- S.E.A.C. is an advisory committee mandate through the Education Act as a standing committee of each school board.
- The committee reports to the school board and makes recommendations to the board regarding special education programs and services.

Who is on S.E.A.C.?

- The S.E.A.C. of the Grand Erie District School Board is comprised of:
 - a) representatives of up to 12 local chapters of associations which further the interests of people with exceptional needs;
 - b) one person representing the interests of Native students;
 - c) board personnel;
 - d) community members;
 - e) two trustees.

What does S.E.A.C. do?

- The Special Education Advisory Committee is provided with the opportunities to:
 - a) participate in the board's annual Special Education Plan;
 - b) participate in the board's annual budget process;
 - c) review the financial statements of the board;
 - d) make recommendations to the board regarding special education programs and services.

When does S.E.A.C. meet?

- S.E.A.C. meetings are held on a monthly basis, with a minimum of ten meetings per school year.
- The meetings are held at the Education Centre, 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, and are open to the public.

What can S.E.A.C. do for me?

- S.E.A.C. is a committee that represents the interests of all children with exceptional needs.
- Although specific children and issues are not discussed at S.E.A.C., broad issues affecting services across the school board can be raised for discussion.
- S.E.A.C. representatives have a good knowledge of special education services and programs of the school board, and can help parents to navigate through the school system.

How can I become involved with S.E.A.C.?

Local associations or community members wishing representation on

S.E.A.C. should write to:

**Superintendent of Education
Grand Erie District School Board
Education Centre
349 Erie Avenue
Brantford, ON
N3T 5V3**

Telephone:(519) 756-6301

Toll Free:(888) 548-8878

Fax:(519) 756-9181

Questions / Contact

**Principal Leader of Special Education
(519) 754-1606, Ext. 287214**

or

**Coordinator of Special Education
(519) 754-1606, Ext. 287217**

Resources / Publications

- The following resources / publications are available at your local school or Grand Erie board office (519-756-6301):
 - a) Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) - A Guide for Parents
 - b) Parents' Guide To Special Education - Identification, Placement and Review Committee (I.P.R.C.)
- websites:
 - www.gedsb.on.ca
 - www.edu.on.ca

This brochure was recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee and approved by Grand Erie District School Board.

