



To: Chair and Members
Committee of the Whole

DATE: 16 October 2018

RE: Elementary Congregated Gifted Programs

Trustee Boothby has given notice that she intends to move as follows at the Committee of the Whole meeting of 16 October 2018:

WHEREAS ensuring implementation of and compliance with existing Policies and Programs, is a fundamental role of the Board of Trustees,

WHEREAS the gifted exceptionality in particular, has seen a precipitous drop in specialized class enrolment within the Elementary panel in the last three years, (See Tables attached)

WHEREAS the Special Education Policy P.096 specifically directs through the section on Performance Measures 4.5a/b, 4.5, that special education programs and services are to be delivered based on meaningful quality program indicators and evidence-based research. The evidence-based research and quality program indicators, which might explain and justify such a notable change, have not been presented to the Board of Trustees,

WHEREAS a concern has been expressed by Advocates of more than one exceptionality, that the current implementation of tiering may risk timely and necessary intervention of needed, appropriate and unique service levels, which may be to the detriment of a student's individual development and education;

WHEREAS Report 17-073, dated 15 November 2017, states, "until 2014 the placement of students in congregated gifted classrooms was determined solely by cognitive scores".

WHEREAS the OCDSB website states for the gifted exceptionality:

"Specialized Program Classes Available

English Grades 1-12

Early French Immersion Grades 5-12"

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees has not been overtly informed or objectively consulted on the implications and the possible loss of program options presently available for this special education exceptionality, and due to the lack of allowed new applications and admissions for congregated gifted, the OCDSB effectively has no congregated gifted program in grades 1 and 2, and



WHEREAS with the current trend, by September 2020 the OCDSB will effectively no longer have a congregated gifted program for grades 1 – 4.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT following a tiered intervention path towards congregated gifted classes at the Elementary level be immediately suspended, with entry to a congregated class being offered to students wishing a congregated setting and meeting the Cognitive Assessment Criteria contained in the current OCDSB Special Education documentation, pending:
 - i. the Board of Trustees review of the OCDSB Special Education Policy related to the use of tiering for specialized class placement, including the implications for all exceptionalities; and
 - ii. the Board of Trustees taking a Policy decision regarding the offering of a congregated gifted program,
- B. THAT, by no later than February 2019, a report will be delivered to the Board of Trustees with a proposed outline and timeline for A.i and A.ii above, and
- C. THAT staff shall produce an annual report, beginning no later than the end of May 2019, detailing the number of applications and the number of children receiving placements in all congregated programs at both the elementary and secondary level. The report shall also include the details on any waitlist for all congregated programs, by Geographic Zone.

Jennifer Adams
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

Michèle Giroux
Executive Officer
Corporate Services

Signatures on this Notice of Motion confirm that the Notice was submitted in accordance with Section 12.9 of the Board's By-laws and Standing Rules.



Relevant Policy excerpts:

Policy 139 CUR (Curriculum/Program) - CHANGES TO PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM DELIVERY STRUCTURES AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Section 3.5

The Board shall approve the introduction of, changes to, and/or elimination of:

- b) Specialized program delivery structure models that have district wide impact (English as a second language, specialized special education programs)

Policy 096 SES (Special Education/Student Services) - SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Section 4.5

Performance Measures

- a) The Board is committed to developing and maintaining special education programs and services that are based on best practice models, including evidence based data, ongoing assessment and measurement of objectives. These will be reviewed on a cyclical basis, to ensure that they remain effective and are current with evidence-based research findings.
- b) The District will continue to develop and will maintain Quality Program Indicators to help guide the implementation of special education programs and services in a consistent manner.

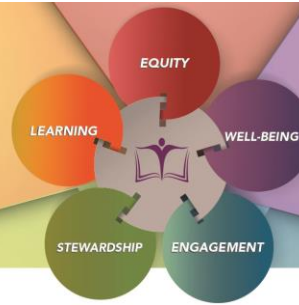
Policy 096 SES (Special Education/Student Services) - SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Section 3.2

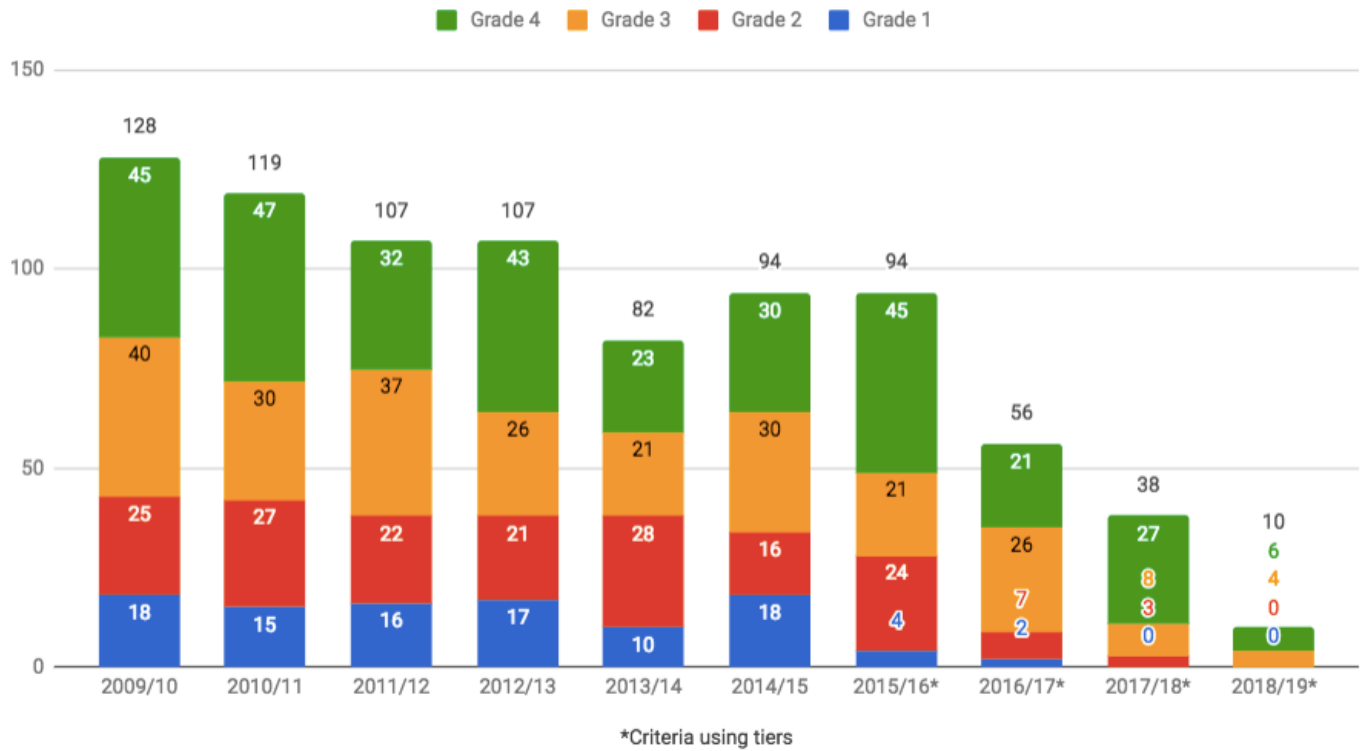
Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles shall govern the education of students with special needs:

- a) promoting early identification and intervention;
- b) ensuring a focus on the whole child;
- c) providing a range of services for the student, subject to available resources.

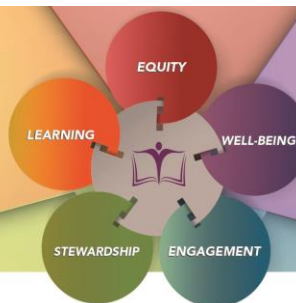


Total Students in congregated grades 1 to 4





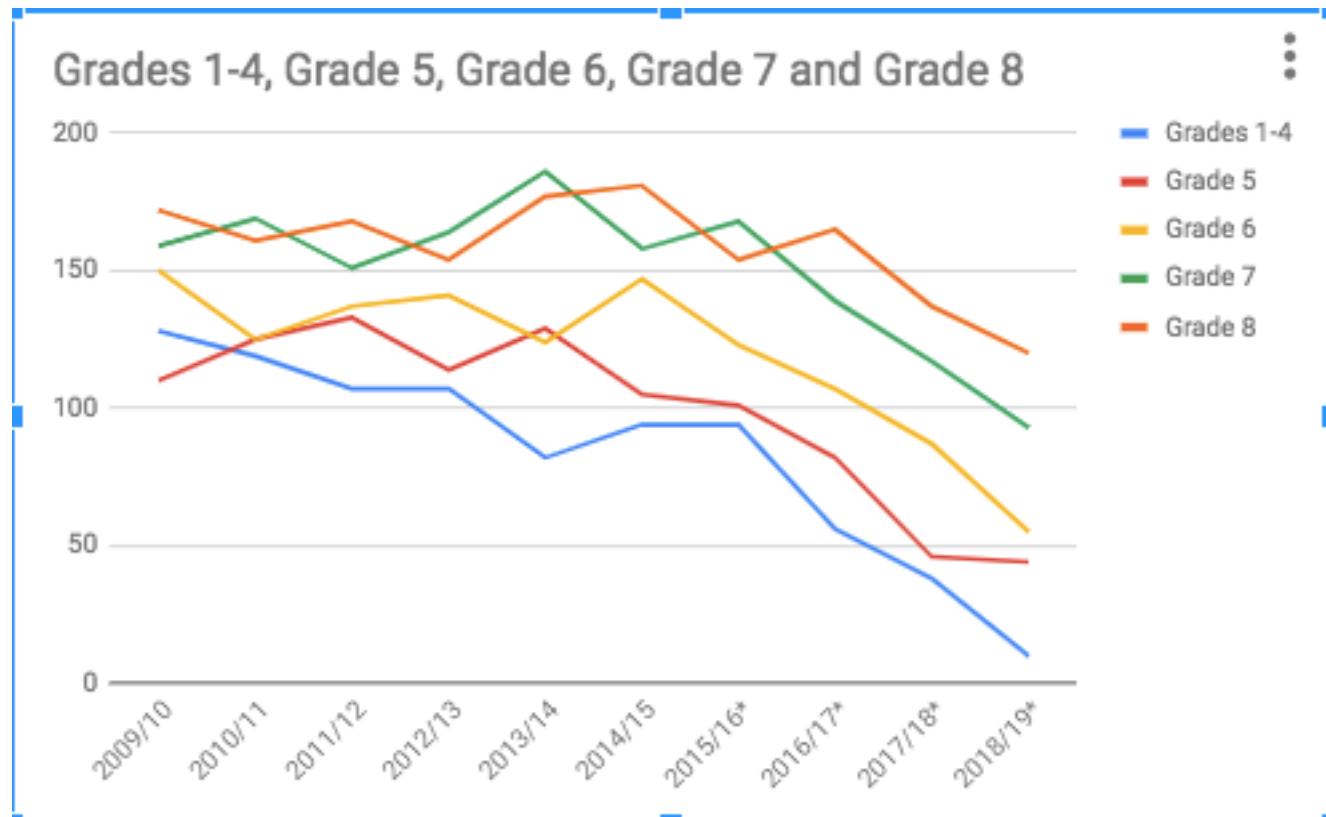
OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

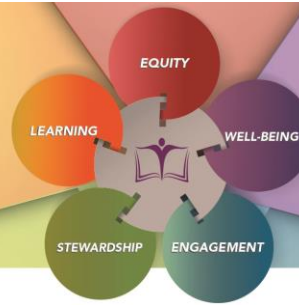


Net change in Congregated Gifted Enrolment 2012/13 to 2018/19

| | 2013/14 from 2012/13 | 2014/15 from 2013/14 | | 2015/16 from 2014/15 | 2016/17 from 2015/16 | 2017/18 from 2016/17 | 2018/19 from 2017/18 |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Grade 1 | -7 | 8 | Mandatory Tiering Introduced | -14 | -2 | -2 | 0 |
| Grade 2 | 7 | -12 | | 8 | -17 | -4 | -3 |
| Grade 3 | -5 | 9 | | -9 | 5 | -18 | -4 |
| Grade 4 | -20 | 7 | | 15 | -24 | 6 | -21 |
| Grade 5 | 15 | -24 | | -4 | -19 | -36 | -2 |
| Grade 6 | -17 | 23 | | -24 | -16 | -20 | -32 |
| Grade 7 | 22 | -28 | | 10 | -29 | -22 | -24 |
| Grade 8 | 23 | 4 | | -27 | 11 | -28 | -17 |
| Totals | 18 | -13 | | -45 | -91 | -124 | -103 |

Total Enrolment Trend





Total Students in congregated grades 1 to 8

