

Report No. 19-097

Revision to Policy P.096.SES

Key Contact: Peter Symmonds, Superintendent of Learning Support Services, 613-596-8254

PURPOSE:

1. To follow up on the request to consider a revision to section 3.3 of Policy P.096.SES, Special Education Programs and Services.

CONTEXT:

2. Every meeting, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) reviews the special education standards included in the annual Special Education Plan. In reviewing Standard 'The Board's Model for Special Education', a discussion ensued about revising the language to include "timely" assessments. It was noted that the language was based on the language in the P.096.SES policy. Staff agreed to follow up on how to effect the language change in the policy. SEAC can make a recommendation to the Board to effect this change.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

3. Special Education Policy
The policy on Special Education Programs and Services, P.096.SES establishes key learning supports in order to achieve the objectives of the policy. Section 3.3 (a) currently provides that:

"The special education policy shall be achieved through the delivery of a variety of learning supports including, but not limited to:

a) a range of appropriate assessments accompanied by timely tiered interventions and professional strategies.

At the recent SEAC meeting it was suggested that "timely" should be inserted between "appropriate" and "assessments".

4. Process for Policy Revision
Recognizing that the proposed revision is specific, straightforward and consistent with the intent and language of the policy and current service delivery practices, SEAC, as an advisory body, could simply make a recommendation to the Board to amend the policy. The recommendation would then be presented to the Board and the Board could decide whether or not to adopt the policy change.

Should the Committee wish to proceed, a member would have to move the staff recommendation as follows:

THAT SEAC recommend to the Board that section 3.3(a) of Special Education Programs and Services Policy P.096.SES be amended to insert the word "timely" as follows:

The special education policy shall be achieved through the delivery of a variety of learning supports including, but not limited to:

- a) a range of appropriate **timely** assessments accompanied by timely tiered interventions and professional strategies.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5. Learning Support Services and school staff strive to provide appropriate and timely assessments, both formal and informal. As such, staff do not anticipate any resource implications with this minor adjustment to the policy.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

6. No consultation required.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

7. The District is committed to its strategic plan goals within a Culture of Caring by prioritizing the dignity and well-being of students in inclusive and caring classrooms as well within a Culture of Social Responsibility through removing barriers to equity of access, opportunity and outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT SEAC recommend to the Board that section 3.3(a) of Special Education Programs and Services Policy P.096.SES be amended to insert the word "timely" as follows:

The special education policy shall be achieved through the delivery of a variety of learning supports including, but not limited to:

- a) a range of appropriate **timely** assessments accompanied by timely tiered interventions and professional strategies.*

Peter Symmonds, Superintendent of
Learning Support Services

Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board