

Part 2- Special Education Programs and Services

The Board's Model For Special Education

Purpose of the Standard

To provide the Ministry and the public with information on the Board's philosophy and service-delivery model for the provision of special education programs and services.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is committed to the principle that learning is a developmental process and children proceed through the stages of development at varying rates. The OCDSB is also committed to early identification and intervention to address learning needs. It is through this early identification and intervention process that learners remain confident about their abilities and are engaged in their learning journey.

The OCDSB Special Education Plan has been designed to comply with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Education Act, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and regulations made under the Act and any other relevant legislation. The OCDSB's approach to special education and its special education delivery model are aligned with the Board's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan. Our Mission, Educating for Success: Inspiring Learning and Building Citizenship forms the foundation of our work. Many components of our current [Strategic Plan](#) connect and support the delivery of our supports and programs.

Strategic Plan 2019–2023

Creating a culture of Innovation, Caring and Social Responsibility...

means ensuring our schools are welcoming places for all students and staff to engage, belong, learn, grow, explore and discover. From Kindergarten to Grade 12, our focus is to support student learning and well-being so that all students can develop the characteristics and skills they need to find success in the world. Our Exit Outcomes describe what we want for all of our learners.

With this in mind, our new strategic plan seeks to develop these characteristics and skills.



CHARACTERISTICS

- GOAL-ORIENTED**
Students who are goal-oriented have self-motivation, self-direction, initiative and a sense of responsibility.
- RESILIENT**
Students who are resilient face and overcome adversity and challenging situations. They take risks, learn from mistakes, persevere, and move forward consistently.
- GLOBALLY AWARE**
Students who are globally aware are respectful and responsive to their contributions to the local and global community. They demonstrate interest and respect for a respectful, inclusive planet.
- COLLABORATIVE**
Students who are collaborative understand the importance of working cooperatively in learning. Collaboration values diverse perspectives and effectively utilizes each person's contribution.
- INNOVATIVE/CREATIVE**
Students who are innovative and creative have original thoughts and ideas that are of value and are critical spirit. They understand that creativity is essential not only for solving problems, but also for improving where strengths already exist.

SKILLS

- CRITICAL THINKERS**
Students who are critical thinkers engage in reflective and independent thinking. They identify the relevance, validity and importance of ideas using critical and reflective processes. They understand the logical connections between ideas. They construct and evaluate arguments using criteria. They generate solutions and create new ways of thinking.
- ACADEMICALLY DIVERSE**
Students who are academically diverse have strong literacy and numeracy skills, they will have developed a full spectrum of skills through exposure to a wide range of subjects including the arts, sciences, financial literacy, physical education, life studies and technology. In keeping with student needs.
- DIGITALLY FLUENT**
Students who are digitally fluent have been able to engage with technology to enhance their learning. This includes interacting with, creating and sharing information or collaboratively in a responsible and ethical way to support their learning.
- EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS**
Students who are effective communicators are skilled in listening, speaking, negotiating, and writing. They connect with people and share their opinions.
- ETHICAL DECISION-MAKERS**
Students who are ethical decision-makers are moral who first generate their decisions through their actions. They practice honesty, respect and responsibility.

**Educating for Success — Inspiring Learning,
Developing Well-Being and Building Social Responsibility**

Our goal was to create a simple, measurable and impactful plan that is meaningful to students, staff and community members. Recognizing that learning, well-being and equity are the core of our work, our strategic plan is focused on building a culture that supports and engages students, staff and community. This is achieved by ensuring our schools are safe, caring and respectful. We need to look forward and think about how our world is changing and ensure we are ready to respond to that change. With this in mind, we are excited that our new strategic plan has three key objectives — to create a Culture of Innovation, a Culture of Caring, and a Culture of Social Responsibility.

To drive this cultural shift, we have established three goals for each objective — one with a student focus, one with a staff focus and one with a system focus. These goals are supported by strategies that will guide our work, outcomes that describe the change we want to happen; and key performance indicators that will help us to measure our progress.

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Culture of Innovation
We will build a learning community where innovation and inquiry drive learning.

Our Goals:

 - Champion high learning expectations for all students in all programs.
 - Promote collaborative environments which foster innovation and creativity.
 - Modernize instruction and administrative processes.
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Culture of Caring
We will advance equity and a sense of belonging to promote a safe and caring community.

Our Goals:

 - Prioritize the dignity and well-being of students in inclusive and caring classrooms.
 - Champion and nurture a safe, caring and respectful workplace.
 - Build authentic engagement with and among our communities.
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Culture of Social Responsibility
We will strengthen our community through ethical leadership, equitable practice, and responsible stewardship.

Our Goals:

 - Remove barriers to equity of access, opportunity, and outcomes.
 - Model responsible and ethical leadership and accountability.
 - Foster progressive stewardship of the environment, and human and financial resources.





Service Delivery Model

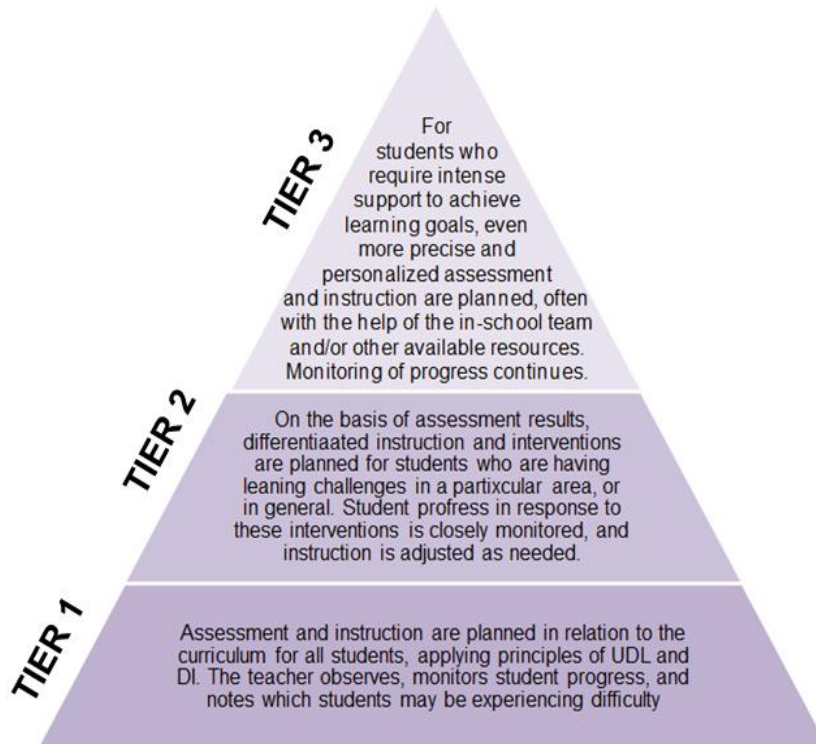
The Service Delivery Model of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is based on a continuum of programs and services with placement options ranging from regular class with special education resource support to specialized program class placements and special education schools. Our goal is to strive to help every student meet their full potential, while fostering the highest level of independence possible for each student. We work with parents and district staff to determine the placement that best meets the student's needs, whether that is in a regular classroom, or for some students, in a specialized program class. Specialized program class locations are based on a geographically defined catchment area and designated schools. We value collaboration and consultation with parents / guardians to best understand the strengths and needs of each learner.

The OCDSB places a strong emphasis on the inclusion of our students with special needs. Our ongoing commitment is to provide the structures and support each student needs to foster their growth and development in programs, which foster integration and independence as defined for each student based on their strengths and needs.

The majority of students with special education needs are placed in a regular classroom. For most students, a classroom teacher, with the support of the school's learning support teacher (LST) or learning resource teacher (LRT) (only in elementary schools), and/or central district staff, are able to provide programming support that allows the student to meet required expectations with success. The regular classroom is always an option that parents / guardians may consider, regardless of the student's needs. A regular classroom allows the student to be surrounded by peers, while receiving personalized programming that is outlined in the student's Individual Education Plan. The regular class is considered the most inclusive of placements.

The special needs of each student may be met by accommodations, modifications, and/or alternative expectations, including, but not limited to, a variety of teaching methods, and/or special equipment. The OCDSB model for service delivery is rooted in the tiered approach to intervention, as outlined in the Ministry of Education document; [Learning for All: A Guide to Effective Assessment and Instruction for All Students, K-12 \(2013\)](#). An overview of the tiered approach to intervention is summarized in the following chart:





Special Education Programs

Special education placements and programs are outlined in detail in Standard 9 (refer to subsection Special Education Placements Provided by the OCDSB for detailed descriptions of Ministry Placements and OCDSB Programs).

Ministry of Education Placements offered by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

- Regular Class with Indirect Support
- Regular Class with Resource Assistance
- Regular Class with Withdrawal Assistance
- Special Education Class with Partial Integration
- Special Education Class Full-time

Special Education Programs offered by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

- Regular Class with Specialized Support
- Regular Class with LST and/or LRT Monitoring
- Regular Class with LST and/or LRT Support
- Specialized Program Class
- Special Education School





Provincial Specialized Placements

- Care and Treatment Programs (CTCC)
- Provincial or Demonstration Schools
- Hospital or Treatment Centres

Special Education Supports in the OCDSB

(All supports listed below are in no particular order)

School-Based Supports	System-Based Supports	Provincially-Based Supports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Teacher • Parent(s)/guardian(s) • Educational Assistant (EA) • Early Childhood Educator (ECE) • Learning Support Teacher (LST) • Learning Resource Teacher (LRT) (elementary only) • Principal/Vice-Principal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Support Consultant (LSC) • Psychologist/Psychological Associate • Social Worker • Speech-Language Pathologist • Autism Spectrum Disorder Team • BCBA (Board Certified Behaviour Analyst) • Behavior Support Team • Itinerant Teacher of Blind/Low Vision and Itinerant Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing • SELT (Social / Emotional Learning Teacher) • Early Learning Team • ITAT (Itinerant Teacher of Assistive Technology) • Itinerant Emergency Educational Assistant • Itinerant Educational Assistant • System Principals • System Managers • Supervisors of Speech-Language Pathology, Psychology, and Social Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Agencies • Care and Treatment (CTCC) • Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) • Hospitals • Demonstration/ Provincial Schools





The OCDSB [special education policy](#) shall be achieved through the delivery of a variety of learning supports including, but not limited to:

- range of appropriate, timely assessments accompanied by timely tiered interventions and professional strategies;
- a continuum of placement options;
- equitable application of the specialized program class location model using geographically defined catchment areas and designated schools to ensure fair access to specialized programs;
- appropriate student/teacher ratio as governed by the Education Act;
- Individual Education Plans (IEPs) subject to regular review and outcome based evaluation;
- a clearly communicated Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process, with consistent procedure;
- integration opportunities within the student's school;
- multi-disciplinary professional supports for students with special education needs;
- timely access as required to appropriate equipment and materials: and
- timely access to information for parents about programs and services.

Definition of Terms

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) is the science of behaviour that systematically applies strategies, to improve socially significant behaviours. Interventions are utilized to shape and change behaviour as well as teach new skills.

Accommodation includes special teaching and assessment strategies, human supports, and/or individualized equipment that help the student learn and demonstrate learning. Accommodations described in the IEP should include only those strategies and supports that differ from what is normally provided during classroom instruction. Accommodations that the student requires in connection with instruction, assessment and functioning in the physical environment should be listed separately as follows:

- *Instructional accommodations* - adjustments in teaching strategies required to enable the student to learn and to progress through the curriculum
- *Environmental accommodations* - changes or supports in the physical environment of the classroom and/or the school
- *Assessment accommodations* - adjustments in assessment activities and methods required to enable the student to demonstrate learning

Assistive technology is any technology that allows one to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of an individual with special learning needs.

Differentiated Instruction includes using flexible groupings to meet student needs, providing accommodated instruction/assessments activities where required and





challenging students at an appropriate level (in light of their readiness, interests, and learning profiles).

Curriculum tells teachers *what* to teach, while differentiated instruction tells teachers *how* to teach it to a range of learners by employing a variety of teaching approaches. The teacher can differentiate one or a number of the following elements in any classroom learning situation:

- the content (what the student is going to learn)
- the process (the activities)
- the product (the accomplishment following a learning period)

An **exceptional pupil** according to the Education Act is a pupil whose behaviour, communication, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that he/she is considered to need placement in a special education program by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee of the Board established in the Education Act ([*Regulation 181*](#)). Refer to OCDSB Special Education Programs and Services for detailed descriptions.

An **Identification, Placement and Review Committee** (IPRC) is a committee of the Board with a mandate to identify students with special education needs and determine the most appropriate special education program based on the student's needs.

An **Individual Education Plan** (IEP) is a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a particular student. It identifies learning expectations that are modified from or alternative to the expectations given in the curriculum policy document for the appropriate grade and subject or course, and/or accommodations and special education services needed to assist the student in achieving his or her learning expectations.

In-School Team may consist of the principal or designate, Learning Support Teacher (LST), Educational Assistant (EA), Head of Special Education/Special, Education/Student Services, classroom teacher, parent(s)/guardian(s) and any of the following where appropriate: classroom teacher(s), Learning Resource Teacher (LRT), special education class teacher(s), Early Childhood Educator (ECE) and student if over 16.

Modification is the process of changing the number, complexity and/or grade-level expectations for a subject or course in order to meet a student's learning needs.

Multi-Disciplinary Team consists of members of the in-school team and various personnel who are assigned to support the school in areas of special education





assessments and programming. These may include the Learning Support Consultant (LSC), psychologist or psychological associate, social worker, speech-language pathologist, Itinerant Teachers for the Blind/Low Vision, Itinerant Teachers for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, as well as, any of the system-based teams e.g. Behaviour Support Team (BST), Student Success Teachers (SST), Autism Spectrum Disorder Team (ASDT).

A **program** is a prescribed set of learning activities that has a basis in the Ontario Education Act, the regulations, the Ministry of Education guidelines or Ministry memoranda which would generally identify the scope and sequence of the learning activities, the target group, and the requirements for certification.

Provincial/Demonstration Schools are Ministry operated schools for students who are deaf, blind, deaf-blind or for students with severe learning disabilities. Residential programs are available for those students for whom distance precludes daily travel.

A **special education program**, as defined by the Ontario Education Act, is one based on and modified by the results of continuous assessment and evaluation and that includes a plan containing specific objectives and an outline of educational services that meets the needs of the exceptional pupil.

Tiered Intervention is a process of assessing, supporting, monitoring, and re-evaluating a student's progress by providing "just right" supports that allow the student to achieve academic success. The tiered approach to ongoing prevention and intervention embodies principles of universal design for learning and differentiated instruction, offers a systematic method for the early identification of students who are experiencing particular difficulties, and, through ongoing monitoring of their progress, provides the precise level of support those students need.

Universal Design for Learning provides teachers with broad principles for planning instruction and designing learning environments for a diverse group of students. It often overlaps with differentiated instruction which allows teachers to address specific skills and difficulties. Both include providing a range of instructional strategies, resources, learning tasks, and assessment tools in order to meet the different strengths, needs, levels of readiness, and learning styles or preferences of the students in the class.





OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Acronyms Used in the Special Education Plan 2020

ABA	Applied Behaviour Analysis
ADHD	Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
ADP	Adaptive Devices Program
AODA	Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
ASDP	Autism Spectrum Disorder Program
ASDSCSP	Autism Spectrum Disorder Secondary Credit Support Program
ASDT	Autism Spectrum Disorder Team
BCBA	Board Certified Behaviour Analyst
BIP	Behaviour Intervention Program
BST	Behaviour Support Team
CAC	Centre for Augmentative Communication
CSP	Coordinated Service Planning
DD	Developmental Disability
DHH	Deaf/Hard of Hearing
DSP	Dual Support Program
EA	Educational Assistant
ECE	Early Childhood Educator
ELIP	Early Learning Intervention Program
GLP	General Learning Program
IBI	Intensive Behaviour Program
IEA	Itinerant Educational Assistant
IEP	Individual Education Plan
ILLD	Intermediate Language Learning Disabilities
IPRC	Identification, Placement and Review Committee
ITAT	Itinerant Teacher of Assistive Technology
ITB/LV	Itinerant Teacher for the Blind/Low Vision
ITD/HH	Itinerant Teacher for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
LD	Learning Disability
LDP	Learning Disability Program
LD SIP	Learning Disability Specialized Intervention Program
LLD	Language Learning Disability
LSC	Learning Support Consultant
LSS	Learning Support Services
LST	Learning Support Teacher
LRT	Learning Resource Teacher
MID	Mild Intellectual Disability
OCDSB	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
OSR	Ontario Student Record
OSSD	Ontario Secondary School Diploma





OSTA	Ottawa Student Transportation Authority
OT	Occupational Therapist
PCLD	Provincial Committee on Learning Disabilities
PSP	Physical Support Program
PT	Physical Therapist
QPI	Quality Programming Indicators
SAL	Supervised Alternative Learning
SEA	Special Equipment Amount
SEAC	Special Education Advisory Committee
SIP	Special Incidence Portion
SLP	Speech-language Pathologist
SST	Student Success Teacher

