

Mission Statement

The Lambton Kent District School Board is dedicated to:

- providing quality educational opportunities
- providing access for all students
- providing a safe, dynamic environment
- ensuring fiscal responsibility
- ensuring high professional standard

Other References (available from your local school or District School Board Office):

- A Plan for the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services
- Identification, Placement, and Review Committee Procedures: Understanding the IPRC Process, A Parent Guide

Community Resources:

- Members of SEAC
- Autism Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton
- Community Living Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton, and Wallaceburg
- Chatham-Kent Children's Services
- Child and Parent Resource Institute, London
- Lambton County Developmental Services
- Learning Disability Associations of Chatham-Kent
- Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders
- Pathways Health Centre for Children
- Prism Centre for Audiology & Children's Rehabilitation
- St. Clair Child and Youth Services
- Thames Valley Children's Centre
- VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

The agencies listed above, SEAC Members, LKDSB Trustees, and School Board personnel can be contacted for further information. For information on how to contact any of the above please call the Lambton Kent District School Board at (519) 336-1500, or 1-800-754-7125, or visit our website at www.lkdsb.net.

Prepared by the Members of the
Special Education Advisory Committee
of the Lambton Kent District School Board

REVISED – February 2019



YOUR EXCEPTIONAL CHILD, SCHOOL, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

This brochure is intended to help prepare you and your exceptional child for school. Every child is entitled to be provided with an opportunity to develop to full potential educationally. A partnership of students, school, family, and community support services is essential to the success of all exceptional students. You are your child's advocate; the following information and potential resources will help you in this important role.

The Board's Philosophy of Special Education:

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing educational opportunities that will assist every child in personal and intellectual development. To that end the Board believes and actively supports the provision of programs that will meet student needs in the most enabling environment.

"In order to ensure that the needs of exceptional pupils are met, the Lambton Kent District School Board will provide a planned approach for providing differentiated programs and services, which respond to each pupil's individual level of development."

Who is an exceptional child?

An exceptional child is “A pupil whose behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that the pupil is considered to need placement in a special education program”.

Your rights are outlined in the Education Act and its Regulations:

The [Education Act](#) and its Regulations provides that all school-aged children are entitled to a publicly supported education. Pupils who are exceptional have a right to special education programs and services.

Who are your partners?

- Local School: Your primary contact is the school principal who can initiate the process that will lead to identifying your child’s exceptionality and the special education program for your child.
- Lambton Kent District School Board: The public school board serving Lambton and Kent Counties is comprised of a Board of Trustees, Education Centres in Sarnia and Chatham, and staff located at schools throughout the area.
- The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC): Is a Board appointed committee representing provincial groups and the public who advise the Board re: special education programs. These provincial groups are excellent contacts as they represent some of the exceptionalities listed in this brochure.
- Ontario Ministry of Education: Sets the standards for District School Boards including the requirements for Special Education Plans. Provides funding to the Board for this plan.

What are Your (Parent) Responsibilities?

You are your child’s best advocate. As an advocate you can:

- Participate with the school identification and planning process.
- Familiarize yourself with Board policies and procedures.
- Become acquainted with school staff involved with your child.
- Inform yourself through the other available resources.
- Support your child at home.

Contacting the school:

Although you can contact your local principal at any time, typically contact will be made at the following times:

- For new students registering for Junior or Senior Kindergarten there is an Early Identification Process with the purpose of identifying each child’s learning needs and any required supports.
- For existing students, talk to your child’s teacher. There is a school team that can review the situation. You can also request an IPRC to initiate a review and placement process for your child.
- For school-aged children new to the Lambton Kent District School Board or a LKDSB School, talk to the Principal of your child’s new school.

Exceptionalities:

The Ministry of Education recognizes the following exceptionalities:

- Behaviour
- Communication
 - Autism
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Language Impairment
 - Speech Impairment
 - Learning Disability
- Intellectual
 - Giftedness
 - Mild Intellectual Disability
 - Developmental Disability
- Physical
 - Physical Disability
 - Blind and Low Vision
- Multiple Exceptionalities