

2.2 Roles and Responsibilities in Special Education

(Also see Section 2.11 - Special Education Staff)

The Ministry of Education has begun to define roles and responsibilities in elementary and secondary education in several key areas:

- legislative and policy framework
- funding
- school system management
- programs and curriculum

It is important that all involved in special education understand their roles and responsibilities, which are outlined below.

The Ministry of Education:

- defines, through the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda, the legal obligations of school boards regarding the provision of special education programs and services, and prescribes the categories and definitions of exceptionality;
- ensures that school boards provide appropriate special education programs and services for their exceptional pupils;
- establishes the funding for special education through the structure of the funding model. The model consists of the Foundation Grant, the Special Education Grant, and other special purpose grants;
- requires school boards to report on their expenditures for special education;
- sets province-wide standards for curriculum and reporting of achievement;
- requires school boards to maintain special education reports and review them annually;
- requires school boards to establish Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs);
- establishes Special Education Tribunals to hear disputes between parents and school boards regarding the identification and placement of exceptional pupils;
- establishes a provincial Advisory Council on Special Education to advise the Minister of Education on matters related to special education programs and services;
- operates Provincial and Demonstration Schools for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind, or who have severe learning disabilities.

The District School Board:

- establishes school board policy and practices that comply with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- monitors school compliance with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- requires staff to comply with the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- provides appropriately qualified staff to provide programs and services for the exceptional pupils of the board;
- obtains the appropriate funding and reports on the expenditures for special education;
- develops and maintains a special education report that is amended from time to time to meet the current needs of the exceptional pupils of the board;
- reviews and updates the report and submits a checklist to the Ministry of Education;
- provides statistical reports to the ministry as required and as requested;

The District School Board: (continued)

- prepares a parent guide to provide parents with information about special education programs, services, and procedures;
- establishes one or more IPRCs to identify exceptional pupils and determine appropriate placements for them;
- establishes a Special Education Advisory Committee;
- provides professional development to staff on special education. The Special Education Advisory Committee:
- makes recommendations to the board with respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the board;
- participates in the board's annual review of its special education report;
- participates in the board's annual budget process as it relates to special education;
- reviews the financial statements of the board as they relate to special education;
- provides information to parents, as requested.

The School Principal:

- carries out duties as outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and policy/ program memoranda, and through board policies;
- communicates Ministry of Education and school board expectations to staff, community partners and parents/guardians;
- ensures that appropriately qualified staff are assigned to teach special education classes;
- communicates board policies and procedures about special education to staff, students, and parents;
- ensures that the identification and placement of exceptional pupils, through an IPRC, is done according to the procedures outlined in the Education Act, regulations and board policies;
- consults with parents and with school board staff to determine the most appropriate program for exceptional pupils;
- ensures the development, implementation, and review of a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), including a transition plan, according to provincial requirements;
- ensures that parents are consulted in the development of their child's IEP and that they are provided with a copy of the IEP;
- ensures the delivery of the program as set out in the IEP;
- ensures that appropriate assessments are requested if necessary and that parental consent is obtained.

The Teacher:

- carries out duties as outlined in the Education Act, regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- follows board policies and procedures regarding special education;
- maintains up-to-date knowledge of special education practices;
- where appropriate, works with special education staff and parents to develop the IEP for an exceptional pupil;
- provides the program for the exceptional pupil in the regular class, as outlined in the IEP;

The Teacher: (continued)

- communicates the student's progress to parents;
- works with other school board staff to review and update the student's IEP;
- ensures the IEP goals are reflected in the provincial report card.

The Special Education Teacher, in addition to the responsibilities listed above under "The Teacher":

- holds qualifications, in accordance with Regulation 298, to teach special education;
- monitors the student's progress with reference to the IEP and modifies the program as necessary;
- assists in providing educational assessments for exceptional pupils;
- modifies the program in collaboration with the classroom teacher, school administration and the Boards modification committee.

The Parent/Guardian:

- becomes familiar with and informed about board policies and procedures in areas that affect the child;
- participates in IPRCs, parent-teacher conferences, and other relevant school activities;
- participates in the development of the IEP;
- becomes acquainted with the school staff working with the student;
- supports the student at home;
- works with the school principal and teachers to solve problems;
- is responsible for the student's attendance at school.

The Student:

- complies with the requirements as outlined in the Education Act regulations, and policy/program memoranda;
- complies with board policies and procedures;
- participates in IPRCs, parent-teacher conferences, and other activities, as appropriate.