



Other Reference Materials/Websites That Are Available:

- Report for the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services
- Identification, Placement, and Review Committee Procedures: Understanding the IPRC Process, A Parent Guide
- Lambton Kent District School Board Website - Special Education section: [Special Education, LKDSB](#)
- A Plan for the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services [LKDSB Special Education Plan](#)
- Ministry of Education Website (Special Education section): [Ontario Ministry of Education - Special Education](#)

Community Resources:

- Autism Ontario – West Region
- Community Living Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton, and Wallaceburg
- Child and Parent Resource Institute, London
- Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent
- Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
- Lambton County Developmental Services
- Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent
- Linck Child, Youth and Family Supports
- Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders
- Pathways Health Centre for Children
- St. Clair Child & Youth Services
- Thames Valley Children’s Centre
- VIEWS for Children who are Blind or have Low Vision
- VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

The agencies listed above, SEAC Members, Trustees, and School Board personnel can be contacted for further information. For information on how to contact any of these organizations, 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*

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YOUR EXCEPTIONAL CHILD, SCHOOL, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORTS

This brochure is intended to help prepare you and your child for school where special needs are a consideration. Every child is entitled to be provided with an opportunity to develop to their full potential educationally. A partnership between the student, their family, the school, and community support services is essential to the success of all students. You are your child’s advocate. The following information and potential resources will help you in this important role.

Mission Statement:

Fostering Success for Every Student Every Day

Belief Statements:

- ✓ *Public education is an investment in the future of all peoples and all communities.*
- ✓ *All students can learn and are entitled to quality instruction.*
- ✓ *A safe and caring learning environment is strengthened by embracing diversity, and respecting self, others and the world around us.*
- ✓ *Student success is achieved through shared responsibility of students, staff, families, community and First Nation partners.*
- ✓ *Accountability is attained through open dialogue, transparency and fiscal responsibility.*
- ✓ *We are committed to innovation and continuous improvement.*

Children with Special Needs

A child with special needs 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”.

Rights outlined in the Education Act and in its Regulations:

The [Education Act](#) and its Regulations sets out that all school-aged children are entitled to a publicly-supported education. Pupils with special needs 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 special needs and the most appropriate special education supports for your child.
- *Lambton Kent District School Board:* The Public School Board serving Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton is comprised of a Board of Trustees, Education Centres in Sarnia and Chatham, and staff located at schools throughout the area.
- *Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC):* SEAC is a Board-appointed committee representing provincial groups and the public, who advise the Board regarding special education programs. These provincial groups are excellent contacts as they represent some of the exceptionalities listed on the next page.
- *Ontario Ministry of Education:* Sets the standards for District School Boards including the requirements for Special Education Plans and provides funding to the Board for this Plan.

What Are Your Responsibilities as Parent/Guardian?

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 to identify each child’s learning needs and identify the required supports.
- **For Existing Students:** Talk to your child’s teacher. There is a school team that can meet with you to develop strategies and explore alternative plans. You can also request an IPRC to initiate a review and placement process for your child.
- **For School-Aged Children New to the Board or School:** Talk to your local Principal.

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**

Philosophy of Special Education:

It is the policy of the Lambton Kent District School Board to empower individual students to reach their full potential through inclusionary practices in responsive learning environments.