

# SEAC

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



## What is SEAC?

Under Ontario's Education Act, every student is entitled to a program which meets their needs. In Durham, our Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) helps the Board protect the rights of students with special learning needs. SEAC provides information, advice and assistance to parents/guardians whose children may require additional support.

SEAC advises and makes recommendations to the Board concerning the establishment and development of special education programs and services.

## Who Are Exceptional Students?

Exceptional Students are those whose behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that the student needs a specialized placement or support as identified by the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (I.P.R.C.)

The mission of the Durham District School Board's Special Education program is to provide a range of programs, placements and services for students with special needs in a supportive environment which enables them to develop to their full potential. Our on-going commitment is to provide the structures and support each student needs to foster their growth and development in programs which promote integration and independence as defined for each student based on their strengths and needs.



## What happens at a SEAC Meeting?

SEAC meetings are a forum for SEAC members to provide advice and discussion of Board programs and support services for exceptional pupils.

Meetings follow a formal format including:

- Review of Minutes
- Presentations
- Current issues and initiatives in Special Education
- Committee Reports by members
- Board Reports: a) Trustees b) Staff
- Correspondence and questions

## You are welcome to attend!

New for the 2023-2024 school year: Members of the public who wish to attend SEAC meetings in person are required to pre-register as space is limited. To pre-register, visit [SEAC Calendar - Agendas and Minutes](#) and select the meeting date you wish to attend. A short registration form will be available for completion. Once pre-registration capacity has been reached, the form will be closed, and public observation will be available through the livestream only.

The Committee meets at:

### **DDSB Education Centre**

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby

6:30 p.m. (usually every 3rd Thursday of the month)



## The committee is composed of member representatives from:

- Association for Bright Children (ABC)
- Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter
- Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support
- Durham District School Board (Trustees)
- Durham Down Syndrome Association
- Early Years Child Care Consortium Representative
- Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region
- Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)
- Members at Large Morgann Cameron and Elizabeth Daniel

### Association for Bright Children (ABC)

This association helps parents advocate for their bright and gifted children. In co-operation with the Durham District School Board, ABC's Durham Chapter provides information and support to member and non-member parents.

#### Contact:

**Eva Kyriakides** (SEAC Chair)

[bill.eva.k@rogers.com](mailto:bill.eva.k@rogers.com)

[abcontario.ca](http://abcontario.ca)

### Autism Ontario-Durham Chapter

Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its chapters share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community.

#### Contact:

**sensaRAneb Burrell**

[anactiveparent@hotmail.com](mailto:anactiveparent@hotmail.com)

[Autismontario.com](http://Autismontario.com)

### Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support

Established in 2020, the Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support supports Black caregivers of children and adults with disability, providing families with a safe place to network, build connections, problem-solve, share resources and to become less isolated. We believe that “it takes a village” to meet the needs of our families and our focus is to educate them on their rights and responsibilities, to enlighten them about the services available to them and to empower them to be strong advocates for their loved ones.

#### Contact:

**Jenn McLaughlin**

[SawubonaACS.org](http://SawubonaACS.org)

416-276-8291



## Durham Down Syndrome Association

This is an organization of parents, professionals and others striving to improve the quality of life for those with Down Syndrome. While seeking to broaden public awareness, this association serves as a support to new families and as a resource to parents/guardians for information regarding facilities and programs available for persons with Down Syndrome.

### Contact:

Tara Culley

[SEAC@ddsa.ca](mailto:SEAC@ddsa.ca)  
[ddsa.ca](http://ddsa.ca)

## Early Years Child Care Consortium Representative

The DDSB Early Years Consortium brings together a group of early years and child services committed to the delivery of high quality programs that provide consistency and continuity for children as they transition between community and school, core day and extended day programs. The Early Years consortium exists to promote the healthy development, security and safety for all children and families through neighbourhood collaboration and service integration.

## Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region

The Learning Disabilities Association Durham Region's mission is to advocate, support and educate the Durham community about learning disabilities and to enable persons with learning disabilities to reach their full potential.

To achieve this we provide:

- Monthly Speaker Series for all
- Resource Facilitation for all
- Advocacy Support for members
- Public Awareness Activities

### Contact:

Rowin Jarvis

[rowin@ldadr.on.ca](mailto:rowin@ldadr.on.ca)  
[ldadr.on.ca](http://ldadr.on.ca)

## Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)

Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC) is a provincial parent organization providing advocacy for children, youth and young adults who are blind or have low vision.

### Contact:

Charmain Brown

[charmainbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:charmainbrown@hotmail.com)

416-912-7714

## Members at Large:

**Morgann Cameron**

[morganncameron@hotmail.com](mailto:morganncameron@hotmail.com)

As a Member at Large on SEAC, I believe my role is to assist families in the community with advocacy and system navigation to ensure children, youth, and families are able to access any required supports. As a member of the Indigenous community, I strive to represent an Indigenous perspective and be involved in ensuring equal access to education-related supports for all students. I look forward to being able to share the knowledge I acquire through SEAC with members of the community that I come into contact with both in my personal and professional life.

**Elizabeth Daniel:**

[jason\\_liz@sympatico.ca](mailto:jason_liz@sympatico.ca)

My role as member at large is to organize information that is presented and be available to interact with anyone who feels a non-affiliated partner is a good representative, or is looking for a basic starting point in connecting to information and resources. I have flexibility in providing advocacy work to reflect who or what is top priority at any given time. I hope to bring strong communication skills, personal and professional background to the table and provide valuable feedback in shaping the progression of special education services.



**Durham District School Board:**

**905-666-5500**

**Toll Free: 1-800-265-2968**

[ddsb.ca](http://ddsb.ca)

**Donna Edwards, Trustee: 905-426-7045**

**Kelly Miller, Trustee: 905-706-3817**

**Deb Oldfield, Trustee: 905-391-0764**

If you would like more information on the Special Education Advisory Committee or Special Education Services in Durham, please call your local school.



