

# 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!

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 the 1st Thursday of the month)



## **The committee is composed of member representatives from:**

- Association for Bright Children (ABC)
- Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter
- Durham District School Board (Trustees)
- Durham Down Syndrome Association
- Easter Seals Ontario
- GrandviewKids' Family Advisory Council
- Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region
- Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)
- Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support
- Members at Large Jessica Wells and Lyle Williams

### **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)

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### **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)

### **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)

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### **Easter Seals Ontario**

Easter Seals Ontario provides programs and services to children and youth with physical disabilities across Ontario to help them achieve greater independence, accessibility and integration.

**Contact:**

Allyson Eamer

[allyson.eamer@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:allyson.eamer@ontariotechu.ca)

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

## **GrandviewKids' Family Advisory Council**

The GrandviewKids' Family Advisory Council (FAC) is a group of parents and caregivers who volunteer to help improve the planning and delivery of services at GrandviewKids. They provide guidance on system-level issues that impact many families and contribute to program and service design at the Centre.

**Contact:**

Seana Haley  
[seanahaley@gmail.com](mailto:seanahaley@gmail.com)

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## **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)

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## **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)

## Members at Large:

Lyle Williams:

[seaclw@outlook.com](mailto:seaclw@outlook.com)

My role as Member at Large is to bring my experience in accessibility, human rights, and student support in post-secondary and public-sector environments to the committee. As a Human Rights Officer, I support members and advise on harassment, discrimination, and accommodation needs. Prior to this role, I spent many years in the college sector supporting students with disabilities and advancing inclusive learning practices. As a Black professional with a disability, I draw on both lived and professional experience to advocate for more equitable systems. I am committed to community collaboration and am excited to support the work of SEAC in promoting inclusive education across the Durham District School Board.

Jessica Wells

[jessica.carol.wells@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.carol.wells@gmail.com)

My role as a member at large is to contribute to meaningful discussions and work collaboratively with fellow committee members to enhance support for students with special needs and their families. I am passionate about the success of all children. My experience as a mother and a professional have provided me with insight into the challenges and opportunities within the special education system.

Durham District School Board:

905-666-5500

Toll Free: 1-800-265-2968

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

**Donna Edwards, Trustee: 365-275-2659**

**Stephen Linton, Trustee: 905-706-7490**

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

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

