

# Inclusive Student Services

# Impact Update

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## The Role of the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT)

The Durham District School Board (DDSB) is committed to fostering the success and independence of each student by providing a range of pathways, programs, opportunities, and services. Students with special education interests, strengths, and needs are supported in inclusive environments that enable them to develop to their potential.

SERTs play a crucial role in supporting students with special education interests, strengths, and needs, ensuring they are thriving and have access to individualized learning resources and supports. Each DDSB school has a SERT(s) supporting students, staff, and families.

### Some key roles of the SERT:

- Lead the creation of inclusive, welcoming, and personalized learning spaces for students
- Support the creation of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
- Assist with implementing the instructional program to meet individual needs of students
- Lead curriculum and build teaching capacity through providing strategies and resources to teachers and students that center student identity
- Assist in providing educational assessments for students
- Assist with program accommodations and modifications
- Monitor student progress with reference to the IEP
- Collaborate with Inclusive Student Services (ISS) department team members, families, caregivers, and community partners to support student need
- Meets with teachers and families to plan supports and resources.

**“SERTs make the process of navigating a new diagnosis and the complexities of coming to terms with learning challenges so much easier. It’s nice to have teachers with this expertise in your corner.”**

**—DDSB Parent**

**“Our SERT really helped me navigate a meeting with a family who were looking for additional supports. She makes me feel supported and finds creative ways to meet the individual needs of my students. Our SERT helps in creating a connection between student, teacher, and parent/guardian. She helps everyone feel supported”**

**—DDSB Teacher**

### **Assist with the Instructional Program:**

At the DDSB, we emphasize inclusion for students with special education interests, strengths, and needs, providing meaningful, individualized integration opportunities within special education programs. It is our privilege to support all students in their [Many Paths to Success](#), and SERTs play an essential role in developing supportive programming for students served through ISS.

Students’ needs are met through a variety of programs, placements, and class types within the DDSB, with most students with special education strengths and needs accessing programming through Regular Class placement. We also offer a range of specialized education programs.

SERTs support teachers in monitoring student progress along with accommodations and/or modifications for student learning.

### **Support Capacity Building:**

SERTs have additional teacher qualifications in supporting students with special education interests, strengths, and needs.

### **Monitor Student Progress:**

SERTs walk alongside the school staff in support of developing programming and monitoring student learning.

### **Collaborate in Centering Student Identities:**

SERTs, as members of the ISS Team at the DDSB, collaborate with parents/caregivers, clinicians, and community resources to support the learning needs of students with special education interests, strengths, and needs.



**For more information about the DDSB  
Inclusive Student Services Impact Update,  
please visit [DDSB Inclusive Student Services](#).**