

Durham District School Board (DDSB) Inclusive Student Services Impact Update

2023-2024 • Volume 1

Specialized Equipment

Boards are provided with a Specialized Equipment Amount (SEA) funding specific to the purchase of equipment that may be required by students with special education needs.

There are two components to this allocation:

- Technology–Includes devices, tools needed to use/store devices, and training.
- Non-Computer Based Equipment–Includes hearing and/or vision support equipment, personal care support equipment and/or physical assists support equipment.

Resources purchased for individual students through SEA funding are prescribed by a Regulated Health Professional. Specifically, part of inclusion and accommodation planning and recommended by a professional with one of the following designations: Occupational Therapist (GrandviewKids), Physiotherapist (GrandviewKids), Psychology (DDSB), or Speech Language Pathologist (DDSB).

Between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 (annual reporting cycle), \$2,809,348 of individualized, prescribed technology and equipment was purchased to support inclusion, learning, safety, and well-being of students with special education strengths and needs. Below are examples and the impact on student well-being and learning.

Technology Purchased:*

- Touchscreen laptops^{**} or enlarged screen laptops
- iPads
- Carrying cases including adaptive
- Device cases including adaptive (e.g., Big Grip, OtterBox Cases)
- Computer related items-Charge cords, keyboards (including adaptive), mouse
- Software–Supports inclusion and accommodations such as language tools (communication software e.g., LAMP) and vision

Equipment Purchased:*

- Adaptive Strollers
- Glider Chairs
- Hoyer Lifts–Provide safe lifts and transfers for student movement between areas, including changetables
- Rifton Chairs–Support adaptive seating for learning, eating, and social play
- Standers
- Trampolines–Provide sensory stimulation and physical movement
- Wall Padding–Provide noise dampening and soft surfaces in respite spaces and support for self-care/toileting
- Wheelchairs

*Not an exhaustive list.

**DDSB 1:1 device for students Grades 7+ did not include touchscreen devices during the 2022-2023 school year.

" ...dignity, independence and ease of use... equipment and other technology that allow her to participate in her class and continue to develop her mobility, fine motor skills, her vision, and abilities in all areas." –H. Nguyen, Parent

> "...devices and equipment that allow them to navigate academic life and beyond without barriers. Student engagement, empowerment, and well-being are augmented with each success achievable thanks to this access. Accessing education without barriers thanks to SEA cultivates communities of inclusion, equity, and opportunity, ensuring our diverse learners all reach their full potential and experience the joys of learning." –N. Locker, Principal

For more information about the DDSB Inclusive Student Services Impact Update, please visit <u>DDSB Inclusive Student Services</u>.