

Inclusive Student Services Impact Update

2023-2024 • Volume 2

Classroom Support Staff

Classroom Support Staff help foster inclusion and are integral to supporting student well-being and learning.

Professionals in various roles support students alongside teachers as part of classroom teams. In the DDSB, the following professional roles comprise the Classroom Support Staff team:

- American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter
- Educational Assistant (EA)
- Intervenor
- Language Acquisition Support Worker

ASL Interpreters, 8.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Staffing

ASL Interpreters facilitate and/or provide access to communication for students who are Deaf/hard of hearing.

Educational Assistants, 890.4 FTE

EAs are the largest FTE complement within the professional roles within the roles that comprise Classroom Support Staff in the DDSB. Individuals in the role of EA have a breadth of credentials and experiences that are brought into the role of supporting students with individual strengths and programming needs.

“Support staff greatly assist with facilitating the program designed for my most vulnerable students. We work together to support students in reaching their goals and staying on track!”

–Neil, Educator

“They always help kids and nicely take care of them. When I need a break, they take me.”

–Sulayman, Grade 1 student

“She keeps me safe.”

–Student

“With support, my students are able to receive the quality of education they need and deserve. Without this they get lost.”

–Emily, Educator

Intervenor, 9.0 FTE

Intervenor facilitate or provide access to communication for students who are Deaf-Blind. Vision and hearing are two of the senses frequently used to gather information about the world around us. An intervenor is imperative to a Deaf-Blind student not only to access that information, but also to optimize their educational and social experiences.

Language Acquisition Support Worker, 1.0 FTE

The Language Acquisition Support Worker supports students in the early learning of ASL as a primary language.

Short-Term Assistance Response Team (START)

START is comprised of EAls to help provide in-program embedded supports for school teams, primarily colleague to colleague coaching and collaboration. The team is lead by Psychological Services and a System Lead.

“The biggest thing we love about working alongside the START team is that we are able to have the collaborative conversations about the strategies and approaches that we may not have considered on our own that we are able to talk through and plan alongside with them. The impact has been noted by the school team as well as in the student because of that collaboration and support.”

–Dawn, Principal

Wednesday, November 15, 2023—Classroom Support Staff Appreciation Day

Each year on the third Wednesday in November, the DDSB recognizes the tremendous impact that professionals in Classroom Support Staff roles have for students. Resources, including social media supports, will be provided to schools.



“Here’s to our amazing Classroom Support Staff colleagues. With big hearts and immense skills, these heroes are always ready to help, stay calm and carry on even on the hardest days and they always, always show up all day, every day for our kids. They are the difference makers in our schools, for all of us.”

–Megan, Educator

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