



June 9, 2022

Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Chirstine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block 22nd Floor 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2
Stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister of Education and Minister of Health,

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Halton District School Board (HDSB) recently received a letter from the York Catholic District School Board expressing its concern about the impact of the current nursing shortage on equity of education within the school system.

At our committee meeting on May 3rd, 2022, the Halton District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee approved the following motion:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health in support of the York Catholic District School Board's letter expressing concern about the nursing shortage to the school boards across the province.

Carried unanimously.

At HDSB, we believe in equity of access to education and the right of all students to be able to attend school safely and meaningfully. For many of our students with complex medical needs, this is only possible with the support of specialized nursing staff. School staff cannot, and should not be asked to, perform the duties of a nurse or registered health care professional in their absence. Therefore, without access to sufficient nursing staff due to the current nursing shortage, many of our most vulnerable students are unable to attend school with their peers, leading to reduced educational opportunities, social isolation, and an increased burden on family members.

Street Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5A8
Mailing Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • P.O. Box 5005, Stn. LCD 1, Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z2

Phone: 905-335-3663 | 1-877-618-3456 Fax: 905-335-9802

www.hdsb.ca

The HDSB SEAC committee requests that the Ministries of Education and Health work together to ensure that this issue is a top priority for the government and that a plan is put in place to ensure that all students, including the most medically complex, are provided with the supports they need to access education in an equitable manner.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Brindle,
Chair, HDSB SEAC

cc: Margo Shuttleworth, HDSB Chair of the Board