# Standard 14: Equipment

## Determination of the need for individualized equipment

Students who have undergone a professional assessment may be prescribed individualized equipment (see below, “Criteria”). The school will complete and submit a request for the equipment to the Student Services department for order processing.

## Special Equipment Amount (SEA)

The Ministry of Education expects Boards to cover the first $800.00 for all non-computer based claims. Claims under $800.00 are covered totally by Boards. For claims above $800.00, a SEA claim is made and the Ministry of Education covers all costs in excess of $800.00 as described below.

### Non-computer Equipment

When appropriate, (i.e. an approved prescription is received from a qualified practitioner), the School Resource Team will request a Special Equipment Amount (SEA) claim for purchases over $800.00. All Boards in the province of Ontario must pay the first $800.00 of any non-computer SEA claim, while the Ministry of Education pays the balance. Purchases are processed through the Special Equipment Amount (SEA: Non-Computer) Budget. Some non-computer SEA equipment can be cost shared with the Assistive Devices Program.

A non-computer SEA claim can be put forward for any student with special needs who requires a total expenditure that will exceed $800.00. The Ministry of Education funding and grant legislation states that funding can be used to purchase equipment for any student with a special need, where the equipment is required to support the student’s access to the Ontario Curriculum and/or alternate program. Students do not need to be formally identified as an exceptional student, but their need for equipment must be recommended by a relevant qualified professional (see below, “Criteria”).

The student’s IEP will make reference to the type and required use of Assistive Technology to ensure access to curriculum. An assessment must be provided that includes a diagnosis of the condition the equipment is meant to address and a recommendation regarding the specific types of equipment the student requires. The Ministry of Education recommends, and it is Halton District School Board practice to undertake, a three-month trial of equipment for students with Central Auditory Processing difficulties prior to submitting a request for a SEA claim.

#### Criteria:

A SEA claim must be documented by an assessment on file from an appropriately qualified professional. These professionals include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Audiologist;
* Occupational Therapist;
* Physician;
* Physiotherapist;
* Speech-Language Pathologists.

The Ministry assumes that the professional is a member of the relevant professional college.

Types of Devices include but are not limited to:

* Braille Equipment;
* FM Systems;
* Communication Aids;
* Mobility Devices.

Budgets are also set aside for the following:

* Service Contracts (for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing);
* Technical Support;
* Training.

### Computers and related technology

Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, funding for most computers and related technology are funded on a per-pupil amount for most computer-based technology.

Following the prescription of a computer and software for a student by an appropriate professional, and where the equipment is required to support the student’s access to the Ontario Curriculum and/or alternate program, computer-based technology requests can be made by a school. Students do not need to be formally identified as exceptional, but their need for equipment must be recommended by a relevant qualified professional (see below, “Criteria”).

The student’s IEP will make reference to the type and required use of Assistive Technology to ensure access to curriculum.

#### Criteria

A computer-based claim must be documented by an assessment on file from an appropriately qualified professional. The assessment must include a diagnosis of the condition the equipment is meant to address and a recommendation regarding the specific types of equipment the student requires. Software should be recommended by type (e.g., text-to-voice), not by software title.

These professionals include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Psychologist or Psychological Associate;
* Occupational Therapist;
* Physician;
* Physiotherapist;
* Speech Language Pathologists.

The Halton District School Board assumes that the professional is a member of the relevant professional college.

Types of Devices include:

* Computers and peripherals;
* Software to provide access to the curriculum;
* Interactive white boards and peripherals;
* Other computing devices.

Budgets are also set aside for the following:

* Service Contracts;
* Technical Support;
* Specialized training.

### Personalized Equipment (Less than $800.00)

A request for personalized equipment comes from the Principal of the school, and must be supported by appropriate assessment documentation. The Student Services Department reviews all requests and approves appropriate requests.