



June 9, 2022

Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
Mowat Block 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor 900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2  
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Dear Minister of Education,

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Halton District School Board (HDSB) recently received a letter from the York Catholic District School Board requesting extra funding for Special Incident Portion (SIP) grants.

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 in support of York Catholic District School Board's letter requesting extra funding for SIP grants.*

*Carried unanimously.*

As outlined in the Special Education Funding Guideline, SIP funding can be claimed by school boards on behalf of students who require more than two full-time equivalent board-paid staff providing intensive support for the health and/or safety of the applicant student, other students, and/or staff. For the 2022-23 school year, this is set at \$28,803. The HDSB SEAC committee would like to express its concern that this funding is inadequate to cover the costs associated with supporting our most vulnerable students and requests that the Ministry of Education revise the funding model to cover the true costs of this support.

Under the Ontario Human Rights Code, school boards are required to provide equitable service to all students to the point of undue hardship. In reality, this means that, in all school boards, funds are taken from the entire system to ensure that students requiring Special Education are supported in a way that protects their human rights. At HDSB, for the 2022-23 school year, we anticipate that the budget gap between our Special Education revenues and expenditures for the coming year will be \$18,084,653, which is consistent with the levels we have seen in prior years. In this way, because Special Education is not adequately funded by the Ministry of Education, the costs of funding special education are borne by the rest of the system, limiting the educational opportunities for other students.

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At HDSB, we passionately believe in supporting all students and giving them the opportunity to learn in an accessible and equitable manner. We respectfully request that the Minister re-evaluate the true costs of supporting our most vulnerable students and their increasingly complex medical needs and provide SIP grants that reflect the costs incurred by our school boards.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Brindle,  
Chair, HDSB SEAC

cc: Margo Shuttleworth, HDSB Chair of the Board