

How can I find out more about Special Education and SEAC?

Whenever a parent has a concern they should always approach their child's Classroom Teacher or Special Education Teacher first. If the parent feels the issue is not resolved they should check the school board communication guidelines on the Waterloo Catholic District School Board website: <https://www.wcdsb.ca/about-us/policies-and-administrative-procedures/communication-guidelines-apc001/>

For information on Special Education programs and services, check the Special Education Plan on the Waterloo Catholic District School Board website: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.wcdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2023/07/Special-Education-Plan-2023-2024.pdf>

Special Education Advisory Committee members are a great resource for information regarding Special Education. Please visit the Waterloo Catholic District School Board website for a current list of the members of SEAC: <https://www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/special-education/special-education-advisory-committee-seac/>



Resources

Waterloo Catholic District School Board

Your Child's Individual Education Plan - A Guide for Parents

Individual Education Plan Checklist for Parents

Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committee

PAAC on SEAC encourages valuable partnerships among trustees, educators, voluntary associations, and parents. The website has videos on the purpose of SEAC and member roles and responsibilities: <https://www.paac-seac.ca/>

Ministry of Education Resources

The Ontario Ministry of Education's Special Education web page: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced.html>

The Ministry of Education website is a great place to find information and publications regarding Special Education.

You can access reports, policies, guidelines, resource documents, monographs, and regulations related to:

- **Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRC)**
- **Individual Education Plan (IEP)**
- **Mental Health Strategy**
- **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
- **Transition Planning**

www.wcdsb.ca



Waterloo Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee

Our Mission and Vision

"As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world."

"Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community - success for each, a place for all."



This brochure has been produced to inform the parents/guardians, educators, and community about the Special Education Advisory Committee.

What is SEAC?

The Education Act requires that every school board shall establish a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). The purpose of the SEAC committee is to advise and make recommendations to the Waterloo Catholic District School Board with respect to any matter affecting Special Education programs and services for students with special needs.

What is the role of SEAC?

SEAC supports the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan where students are achieving at their highest potential in a 21st century world where everyone is included, respected, and welcomed. SEAC is provided with opportunities to:

- a) Participate in the Board's annual Special Education Plan;
- b) Participate in the Board's annual budget process and review financial statements related to Special Education;
- c) Make recommendations to the Board with respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, review and provision of educational programs and services for students with exceptional needs;
- d) Act as a resource to parents as requested.

Who serves on SEAC?

Under Ontario Regulation 464/97, SEAC is composed of the following:

- Representation from up to twelve local associations or organizations that further the interests and well being of students with exceptional needs;
- Trustees of the Board;
- Board personnel

- One person representing the needs of Indigenous pupils where appropriate;
- One or more members at large (optional).

A SEAC member must be over the age of 18, be a Catholic rate payer and must reside within the jurisdiction of the Board that they represent. Employees of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board are not eligible to be members. SEAC members are appointed by the school board. They serve for the term of office of board members and until a new board is organized. A new SEAC is formed every four years following the election of the board of Trustees.

SEAC Meetings

SEAC meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Francis room at the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, 35 Weber Street W, Unit A, Kitchener. Members of the community are welcome to attend. Community members can find meeting agendas and confirm meeting locations posted on the Waterloo Catholic District School Board's website: <https://www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/special-education/special-education-advisory-committee-seac/>

Minutes from the past meetings are also available at www.wcdsb.ca. Delegates wishing to address the committee must register five calendar days prior to the meeting and speak with the office of the Superintendent of Learning: Special Education. Delegates are allowed ten minutes to present.

Meetings are a forum for the SEAC members to provide advice about Special Education programs and services for students with special needs. The agenda for each meeting is prepared by the Chair of SEAC with input from the members. Meetings include regular updates from board representatives about the programming and services provided by the Board as well as reports concerning decisions of the Board which affect Special Education or services. Meetings also include association updates and SEAC functions.

Special Education Services at the Waterloo Catholic District School Board

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is committed to providing programs and services to meet the diverse needs of all students.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board's philosophy of Special Education is aligned with the Board's Mission Statement:

"As disciple of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world."

The provision of Special Education programs and services within the Board is inclusionary in nature, that is, the focus is on programs and services within the context of the regular classroom setting, whenever possible. Students with special needs attend the Catholic school in their home community and with age appropriate peers.

At the Waterloo Catholic District School Board it is our belief that all children are capable of learning. However, each child develops and learns in their own unique way. We recognize that every child has their own special strengths and needs.

How can I become involved with SEAC?

Local associations wishing representation on SEAC should contact the Superintendent of Learning: Special Education at:

Waterloo Catholic District School Board
35 Weber Street W, Unit A
Kitchener, ON
N2H-3Z1
(519) 578-3660