



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC**  
**DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

# **Special Education Advisory Committee**

## **(SEAC)**

**AN INFORMATION SUMMARY FOR PARENTS AND  
COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALS**

## **What is the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)?**

The SEAC is a committee mandated by legislation. This makes it a standing committee of the board.

The SEAC is responsible to advise the board on all matters related to the provision of special education programs and services to its exceptional pupils. Areas of focus include:

- Philosophy and Goals
- Organizational Structure
- Policies and Procedures
- Funding
- Annual Review of the Special Education Plan
- Orientation and Ongoing In-Service for SEAC members
- Interaction with other Board Committees in related matters.

## **Who sits on SEAC?**

The SEAC is made up of no more than twelve (12) representatives of the local associations in the jurisdiction of the board.

The individual must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years of age, a resident within the area of the board, and a Roman Catholic elector.

Terms of qualifications and membership of the committee are governed by the Education Act section 206.

## **What are the responsibilities of SEAC members?**

The members of a SEAC represent all pupils with exceptionalities, and it is important that members respond to the needs of all exceptional pupils within the board. Thus, individual members need to increase their awareness and understanding of the various exceptionalities.

Each member is to expect to:

- Respond to needs of all exceptional pupils within the board
- Respect the right to privacy of individual pupils by avoiding discussion of individual cases
- Acquire and maintain a working knowledge of the special education programs and services provided by the board
- Represent and inform the board about the exceptionality he or she represents
- Bring to SEAC the concerns of specific association regarding programs and services for exceptional pupils
- And to keep the association informed of the proceedings of SEAC and any new developments with respect to special education within the board. To this end, members should:

- Ensure that he or she are expressing the concerns of the association and not his or her own
- Keep informed and identify needs
- Attend SEAC meetings and be prepared to participate at the meeting
- Facilitate the flow of information between SEAC and the Association
- Set annual goals and objectives as well as those for the local association and for the SEAC.

### **What other roles may an Association Representative on SEAC be asked to perform?**

SEAC members may also be asked to:

- Be available to assist parents or guardians with IPRC's
- Act as a resource for parents or guardians of an exceptional pupil
- Provide information on IPRC and appeal procedures
- Be a resource for the schools or community
- Participate in professional workshops addressing the needs and concerns of exceptional pupils.

Additional details about SEAC can be found on the Board website at [www.st-clair.net](http://www.st-clair.net)

## SEAC Members

### Association Representatives:

Steve Stokley	Community Living Chatham-Kent
Ryan Allaer/Wendy Smith	Community Living Wallaceburg
Rachel Veilleux/Brenda Roby	Community Living Sarnia-Lambton
Michelle Parks	Wellness & Emotional Support for Youth Online
Kim D'Hooghe	Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County
Tracey Haddy	Autism Ontario – Chatham-Kent Chapter
Jessica Constancio	Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

### Trustees:

Carol Bryden
Jennifer McCann

### Principal's Association:

Cynthia Blair
Colleen Cogghe
Stacy Shepley
Daniella Mancusi

### Board Advisors:

Lisa Demers	Superintendent of Education
Jennifer Morrow	Principal - Special Education
Christine Preece	Mental Health Lead
Janet Boyle	Consultant - Program Resource
Lisa Thompson-Power	Consultant - Program Resource
Sara Vadovic	Consultant - Program Resource

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**Board Website:** [www.st-clair.net](http://www.st-clair.net)