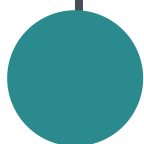


# **SPECIAL EDUCATION IN ONTARIO**

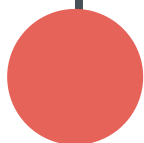
**A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND CAREGIVERS**



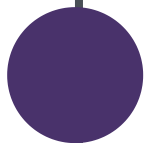
**Introduction to Special  
Education in Ontario**



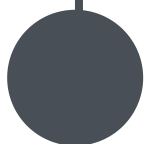
**The Identification,  
Placement, and Review  
Committee (IPRC)**





**Appealing the IPRC  
Decision**



**The Individual Education  
Plan (IEP)**



**Glossary & Resources**

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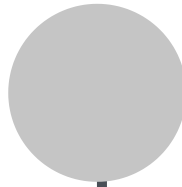
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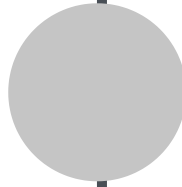
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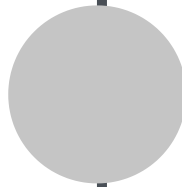
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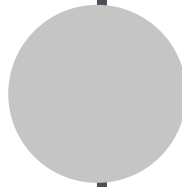
**Introduction to  
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**The Identification,  
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**Appealing the IPRC  
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**The Individual  
Education Plan (IEP)**



**Glossary & Resources**

# GLOSSARY & RESOURCES

Special education processes can be complicated and there are a lot of terms

This glossary is meant to help you understand the "lingo" that you may hear on your journey

## Glossary

**Accommodations** changes the way students are taught material.

**Alternative programs** are developed to help students gain experience outside of the Ontario curriculum. They are typically focused on life skills.

**Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)** helps modify undesirable behavior and increase adaptive behavior. It tracks what happened before the undesirable behavior, the actual behavior and the outcome.

**Assistive technology** refers to equipment or software that enhances learning and living for people with unique abilities and needs.

**Behaviour modification** uses both positive and negative reinforcers/consequences to try and encourage positive behaviour.

**Course codes** are six-character codes that help identify the secondary school level course.

**Early Childhood Educators (ECE)** work with children typically up to the age of 8 (grade 3) with a focus on child development. They are registered members of the College of Early Childhood Educators.

**Educational Assistants (EA)** work to support student needs, under the direction of a teacher.

### **Identification, Placement, and Review**

**Committee (IPRC)** is the group that meets, reviews and discusses information gathered about a student, to decide if a student should be identified as exceptional in accordance to the Ministry of Education categories of exceptionality.

**Individual Education Plan (IEP)** is a written plan created by the school to describe the special education programs and services that are to be provided to the student.

**In-school support team (IST)** is made up of people with different expertise to support the student, parent, and one another. The core members are typically the classroom teacher or Curriculum Leader, the principal or vice-principal, the special education teacher, a guidance counsellor, and the student success teacher. They are not mandated to be part of every school, however most schools have one in place.

**Modifications** change what a student is taught, and/or what they are expected to learn. Modified expectations may include changing the grade level, or changing the complexity of the grade level expectations.

**Ontario Student Record (OSR)** details a student's information and progress through school. It is confidential and can only be accessed by the Principal, school staff with permission, and the student and/or parent upon request.

**Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees (PAAC on SEAC)** bring together the Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) from across the province. They are a connection point and together, provide advocacy and recommendations to the Ministry of Education, as well as provide support to the individual SEACs for each school board.

**Parent Involvement Committees (PIC)** must be established for every school board. They provide advice on parent engagement and share information to support school councils within the individual school boards. It is a parent-led committee. To take part, the parent must have a child enrolled in a school at the same school board. The director of education and a trustee are also members. They meet at least four times a year.

**Provincial and Demonstration schools** are regional centres providing curriculum for elementary and secondary, as well as specialized, intensive programming for students who are Deaf, blind/low vision, deaf blind or have severe learning disabilities.

**Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC)** are trustees and representatives of local associations that support exceptional children or adults. They provide advice on special education to their local school board and make recommendations for programs and services. Each school board must have a SEAC.

**Special education programs** are plans that contain the learning goals and the special education services required to meet the student's needs.

**Special education services** refer to resources, equipment and support personnel. They are there to support the overall program and needs of the student.



# Resources

## Community Organizations

There are many organizations that provide support, advocacy, direct programming, and resources to children, youth, and their families across Ontario.

The list below is not exhaustive, however make up some of the larger organizations that support individuals with exceptionalities and their families.

### General

#### **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance (AODA Alliance)**

[www.aodaalliance.org](http://www.aodaalliance.org)

#### **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)**

[www.camh.ca](http://www.camh.ca)

416-535-8501

Toll-free: 1-800-463-2338

#### **Easter Seals**

[www.easterseals.org](http://www.easterseals.org)

416-421-8377

Toll-free: 1-800-668-6252

#### **Empowered Kids Ontario**

[www.empoweredkidsontario.ca](http://www.empoweredkidsontario.ca)

416-424-3864

#### **Family Alliance Ontario**

[www.family-alliance.com](http://www.family-alliance.com)

905-723-8111

#### **Integration Action Group for Inclusion in Education and Community**

[www.inclusionactionontario.ca](http://www.inclusionactionontario.ca)

Toll-free: 1-877-681-5128

#### **Kids Help Phone**

[www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Toll-free: 1-800-668-6868

Text: 686868

#### **Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on SEAC**

[www.paac-seac.ca](http://www.paac-seac.ca)

#### **Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY)**

JFCY provides legal support to children and youth across Ontario. For help with a legal question, call:

416-960-1633

1-866-999-5329 (toll-free)

[www.jfcy.org](http://www.jfcy.org)

## Supports by Category

### Acquired Brain Injury

#### Brain Injury Canada

[www.braininjurycanada.ca](http://www.braininjurycanada.ca)

#### Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA)

[www.obia.ca](http://www.obia.ca)

1-800-263-5404

Includes information for Brain Injury Associations across Ontario

#### Toronto Acquired Brain Injury Network

[www.abinetwork.ca](http://www.abinetwork.ca)

416-597-3057

### Autism Spectrum Disorder

#### Autism Canada

[www.autismcanada.org](http://www.autismcanada.org)

647-362-5610

Toll-Free: 1-800-983-1795

#### Autism Ontario

[www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com)

416-246-9592

Toll Free: 1-800-472-7789

#### Geneva Centre for Autism

[www.autism.net](http://www.autism.net)

416-322-7877

#### Kerry's Place Autism Services

[www.kerrysplace.org](http://www.kerrysplace.org)

Toll-Free: 1-833-775-3779

#### Ontario Autism Coalition

[www.ontarioautismcoalition.com](http://www.ontarioautismcoalition.com)

#### South Asian Autism Awareness Centre (SAAAC)

[www.saaac.org](http://www.saaac.org)

416-289-0100

#### Surrey Place

[www.surreyplace.ca](http://www.surreyplace.ca)

1-833-575-5437

### Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD)

#### Centre for ADHD Awareness, Canada (CADDAC)

[www.caddac.ca](http://www.caddac.ca)

416-637-8584

#### Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance (CADDRA)

[www.caddra.ca](http://www.caddra.ca)

416-637-8583

#### Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

[www.ldao.ca](http://www.ldao.ca)

416-929-4311

## Supports by Category

### Blind/Visual Impairment

#### **Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)**

[www.cnib.ca](http://www.cnib.ca)

Toll-free: 1-800-563-2642

#### **Deaf Blind Ontario Services**

[www.deafblindontario.com](http://www.deafblindontario.com)

905-853-2862

Toll-free: 1-855-340-3267

#### **VIEWES for the Visually Impaired**

[www.viewson.ca](http://www.viewson.ca)

### Communication

#### **Child Development Programs**

[www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca](http://www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca)

#### **Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders (OAFCCD)**

[www.oafccd.com](http://www.oafccd.com)

519-290-1763

### Deaf and Hard of Hearing

#### **Canadian Hearing Services**

[www.chs.ca](http://www.chs.ca)

Toll-free: 1-866-518-0000

### Deaf Blind Ontario Services

[www.deafblindontario.com](http://www.deafblindontario.com)

905-853-2862

#### **VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children**

[www.voicefordeafkids.com](http://www.voicefordeafkids.com)

### Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

#### **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders FASD Ontario Network of Expertise (FASD ONE)**

[www.fasdontario.ca](http://www.fasdontario.ca)

### Giftedness

#### **The Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC Ontario)**

[www.abcontario.ca](http://www.abcontario.ca)

### Learning Disabilities

#### **Association Francophone de Parents d'infants Dyslexiques ou Jayant tout auto trouble d'apprentissage (L'AFPED+)**

[www.afped.ca](http://www.afped.ca), 613-604-2845

#### **Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario**

[www.ldao.ca](http://www.ldao.ca)

416-929-4311

### Parent Groups

There are many parent groups set up across Ontario - some established through community organizations, and some stemming from community parents identifying a need and self-organizing.

Parent groups can be an incredible support as you navigate these processes. These groups are a good way to connect with others who have had similar experiences, and have developed expertise in navigating the special education system. The groups also provide spaces for parents to share stories and to provide one another support.

To find groups in your area, you can:

- Ask your school to connect you with the school's Parent Council
- Search online for parent support groups
- Ask a trusted community organization for connections to established groups
- Join a parent support group through an organization
- Some cities will have city staff that are in place to provide connections and to support grassroots groups in getting started. Contacting these staff, or getting connected through community spots such as community centres, can help you find a group that meets what you're looking for.





Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY) is a non-profit legal aid clinic that provides select legal representation to low-income children and youth in Ontario.

If you have a legal problem or have questions, contact us:  
416-960-1633 or 1-866-999-5329 (toll-free in Ontario)  
[www.jfcy.org](http://www.jfcy.org)

## **Enhancing Access to Special Education (EASE)**

A project by JFCY, designed to support students and families of students with special education needs to understand and navigate special education processes

 [@jfcy.ease](https://www.instagram.com/jfcy.ease)

JFCY would like to thank the numerous students, parents, caregivers, community supports, educators, and advocates that met with us and shared their experiences and expertise.

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by the Ontario Ministry of Education