

**support every child
reach every student**

Overview of Special Education Funding in Ontario

Chiefs of Ontario

Special Education Information Sharing Forum

Thunder Bay - January 18, 2017

Purpose

- To provide an overview of special education statistics in Ontario, and
- To provide an overview of how the Province funds special education for Ontario's 72 publicly funded district school boards.

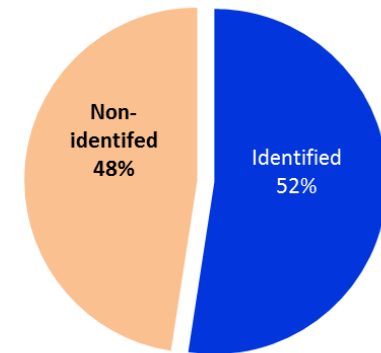
Students with Special Education Needs (Cont'd)

2014-15

In 2014-15 school boards reported a total of 340,562 or 17% of all students as receiving special education programs and/or services.

- Students formally identified as “Exceptional” by an IPRC*

	Number of students	Percentage of Panel	Percentage of all students
Elementary	87,564	6.4%	4.4%
Secondary	90,969	14.1%	4.5%
Total	178,533		8.9%



- Students NOT formally identified as “Exceptional” by an IPRC*

	Number of students	Percentage of Panel	Percentage of all students
Elementary	112,710	8.3%	5.6%
Secondary	49,319	7.7%	2.5%
Total	162,029		8.1%

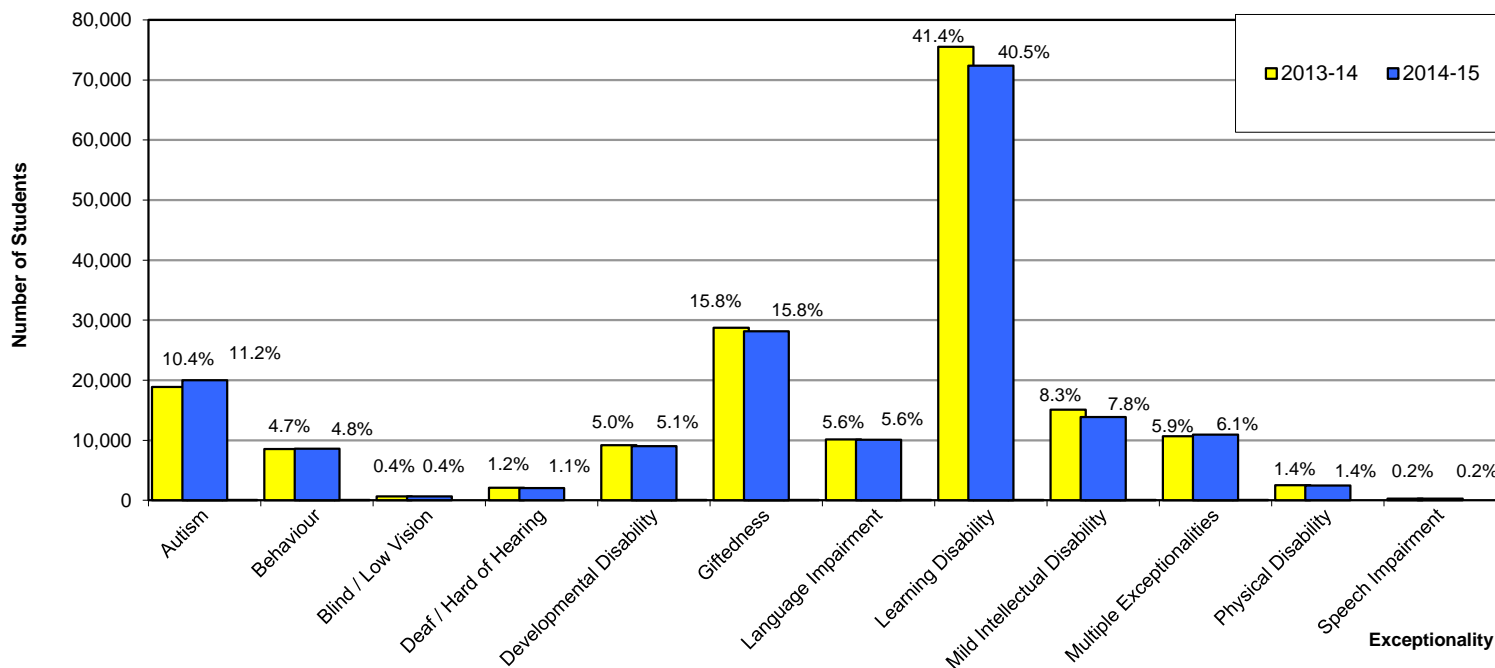
*IPRC – Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC)

- The above figures do not include students that attend Educational Programs for Pupils In Government Approved Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional Facilities.
- Approximately 84% of all students (86% secondary) receiving special education programs and/or services were placed in regular classrooms for more than half of the instructional day.

Demographics by Exceptionality

(Formally identified as “exceptional” by an IPRC)

In the 2014-15 school year, 178,533 students (90,969 secondary) were identified as “exceptional” by school board Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs).



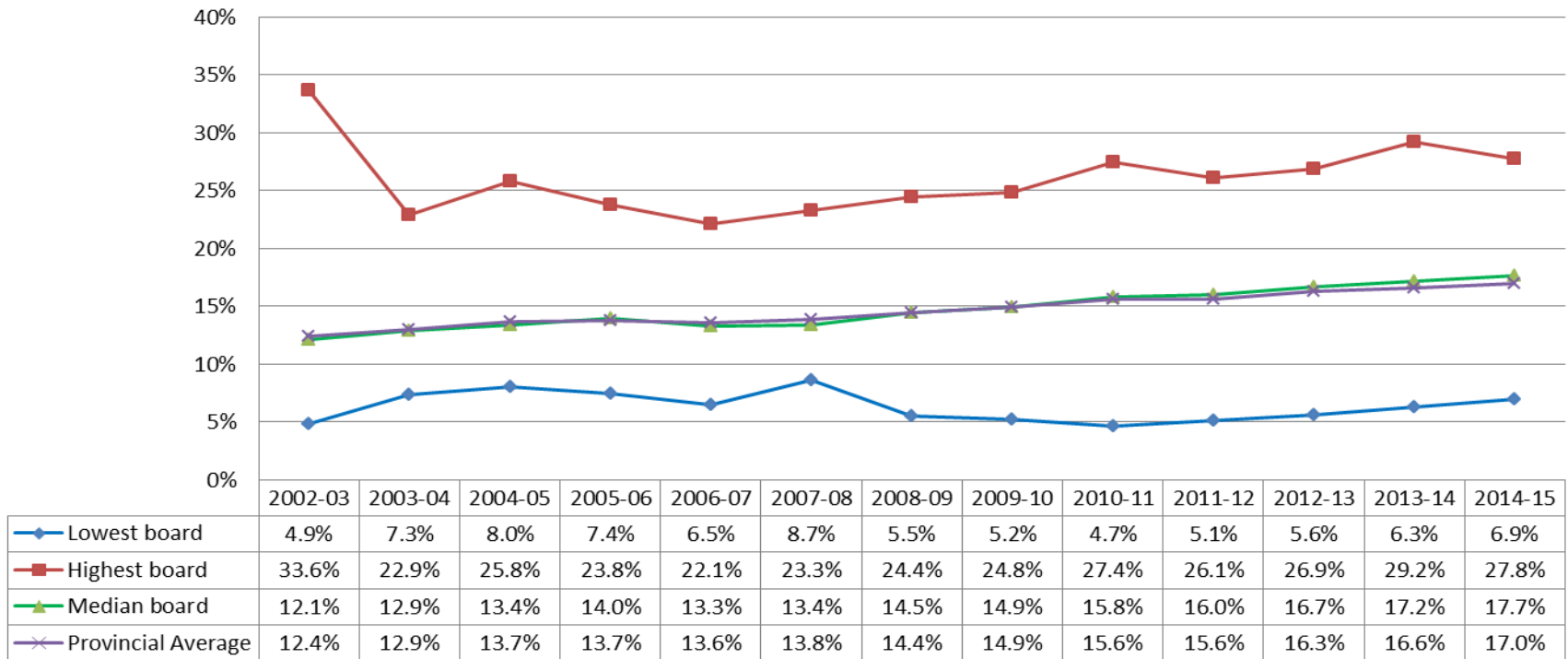
Notes:

- The above chart represents only students identified as “exceptional”. That is **55%** in 2013-14 and **52%** in 2014-15, of all students reported as receiving special education programs and / or services.



Source: OnSIS

Historical Prevalence of *All* Students with Special Education Needs (cont'd) (2002-03 to 2014-15)



Note: This graph identifies the individual school board with Lowest and Highest Prevalence, the Median and Provincial Average for each school year. A school board may be the Lowest or Highest in more than one year, but this is not always the case.

Source: OnSIS

Overview of Special Education Grant (SEG)

The Special Education Grant:

- Provides additional funding to school boards for students with special education needs
- Supports the incremental costs of the additional programs, services, and equipment required to meet their educational needs
- Enables equity in access to learning for all students with special education needs

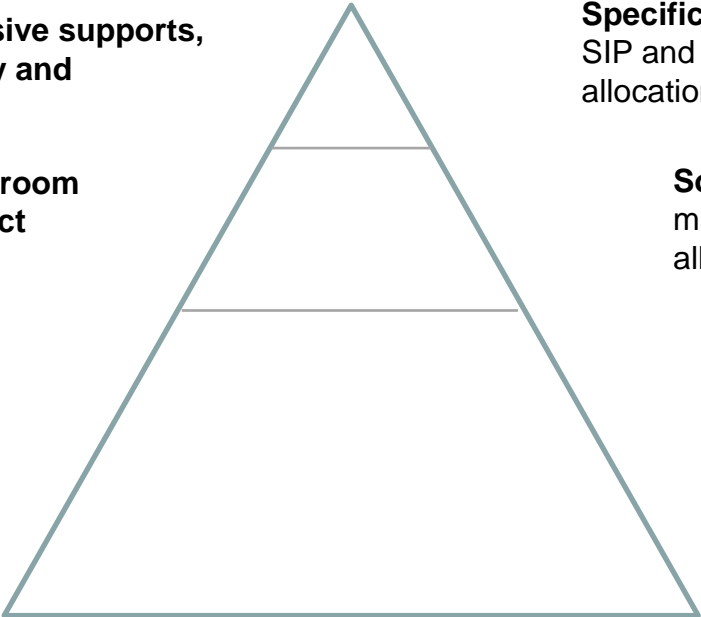
- School boards have the authority and flexibility to use other Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding, as well as the Special Education Grant (SEG), to meet their responsibility to support students with special education needs.
- Decisions regarding how to best provide supports for individual students are made by school boards, in consultation with parents, and taking into consideration the strengths and needs of the particular student. Each student has a unique blend of strengths and needs, thus special education programs and / or services are developed by school boards on an individualized basis.

Special Education Funding is Incremental & Responsive to Student Needs

Student requiring intensive supports, including specific safety and equipment needs

Student in regular classroom with “resource or indirect services”

Non-Special Education Needs Student (No SEG)



Specific Special Education supports:
SIP and SEA claims, BEA and/or SEG and/or other GSN allocations

Some Special Education supports:
may be funded by SEG and/or other GSN allocations

Foundation Grants:
basic costs of education common to all students and schools

Special Purpose Grants:
support the unique needs of students, schools, and school boards

Student Needs

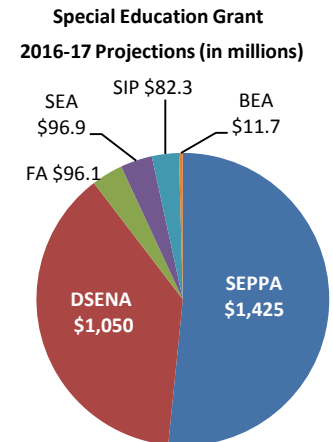
Potential Funding Sources

School boards have the authority and flexibility to use other Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding, as well as the Special Education Grant (SEG), to meet their responsibility to support students with special education needs



Special Education Grant (SEG) 2016-17

- The Special Education Grant is projected to increase to **\$2.76 billion** in 2016-17.
- The Special Education Grant is made up of six allocations:
 - Special Education Per Pupil Amount (SEPPA) Allocation – \$1.43 billion,
 - Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) Allocation – \$1.05 billion,
 - Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Allocation – \$96.9 million,
 - Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Allocation – \$82.3 million,
 - Facilities Amount (FA) Allocation – \$96.1 million, and
 - Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA) Allocation – \$11.7 million.



2016-17 SEG Components

1. Special Education Per-Pupil Amount (SEPPA)

- The Special Education Per-Pupil Amount (SEPPA) allocation recognizes the cost of providing additional assistance to the majority of students with special education needs. SEPPA is allocated on the basis of total enrolment.
- The SEPPA Allocation is projected to be \$1.43 billion in 2016-17.

2. Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA)

- The Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) allocation addresses the variation among boards with respect to students with special education needs and boards' abilities to respond to these needs.
- In 2016-17 the DSENA Allocation is made up of:
 - the historical enrolment based HNA per-pupil amount, funded at 25 percent of the historical HNA per-pupil amounts – \$246.8 million,
 - the Special Education Statistical Prediction Model (SESPM) amount – \$578.1 million,
 - the Measures of Variability (MOV) Amount – \$192.7 million, and
 - the Base Amount for Collaboration and Integration amount – \$32.4 million.
- The DSENA Allocation is projected to be \$1.05 billion for 2016-17.

2016-17 SEG Components (cont'd)

3. Special Equipment Amount (SEA)

- SEA funding is made up of two components:
 - A. SEA Per Pupil Amount – supports the purchase of all computers, software, computing-related devices and required supporting furniture as identified for use by students with special education needs in accordance with the SEA funding guidelines; and
 - B. SEA Claims-Based Amount – supports the purchase, through a claims-based process with an \$800 deductible, of equipment to be utilized by students with special education needs, including sensory equipment, hearing support equipment, vision support equipment, personal care support equipment and physical assists support equipment.
- The [2016-17 SEA Funding Guidelines](#) are available on the Ministry's funding webpage.
- The Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Allocation is projected to be \$96.9 million in 2016-17.

2016-17 SEG Components (cont'd)

4. Special Incidence Portion (SIP)

- The Special Incidence Portion (SIP) allocation supports pupils who require more than two full-time staff to address the health and safety needs of both the students who have extraordinarily high needs related to their disabilities and/or exceptionalities and of others at their school.
- The [2016-17 SIP Funding Guidelines](#) are available on the Ministry's funding webpage.
- The SIP Allocation is projected to be \$82.3 million in 2016-17.

5. Facilities Amount (FA)

- The Facilities Amount (FA) allocation supports education programs for school-aged children and youth in Government-approved facilities such as hospitals, custody or correctional facilities, or a care and/or treatment facility (program based).
- The 2016-17 [Guidelines For Educational Programs for Students In Government Approved Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional \(CTCC\) Facilities 2016-17](#) are available on the Ministry's funding webpage.
- The FA Allocation is projected to be \$96.1 million in 2016-17.

6. Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA)

- The Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA) allocation provides funding for the hiring of additional board level Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) expertise to support principals, teachers, and multi-disciplinary transition teams.
- The BEA Allocation is projected to be \$11.7 million in 2016-17.

2016-17 SEG - *What is New?*

Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA)

- New for 2016-17, the former HNA allocation will be renamed the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) allocation to better align with its purpose.

Facilities Amount

- New [Guidelines For Educational Programs for Students In Government Approved Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional \(CTCC\) Facilities 2016-17](#) have been released on the ministry Financial Analysis and Accountability Branch website.
- The *Guidelines 2016-17* now include new requirements for reporting on student achievement and program attendance patterns.
- An evaluation of the new and transformative programs funded in 2015-16 is underway. While the impact of these programs is being reviewed, the ministry will not be accepting applications for new and/or expanded programs in 2016-17.

2016-17 Education Funding: A Guide To The Special Education Grant

- Provides an overview of special education and how it is funded in Ontario;
- Intended for parents, the public and other special education stakeholders. Similar to existing Guide to the Grants for Student Needs that was introduced last year (2015-16);
- Developed in response to recommendations from the sector during the 2016-17 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) consultations.

Education Program – Other (EPO) Funding

In 2016-17, the ministry is investing \$5.5M through EPO allocations targeted to support students with special education needs, including:

- Autism Supports and Training (\$3.0M);
- Online Training Through Geneva Centre for Autism (\$1M);
- Renewed Mathematics Strategy (\$1.5M)
 - Repurposed funding from Learning for All - provided to all school boards through the same allocation model used in prior years to support Learning for All K-12 projects.

In addition, the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch is also providing \$1.0M to School Mental Health ASSIST, which is a provincial implementation support team designed to help DSBs in their efforts to promote student mental health and well-being by:

- building organizational conditions, such as infrastructure, protocols and role clarity for effective school mental health;
- enhancing staff capacity to support student mental health; and,
- selecting and implementing evidence-based mental health promotion and prevention programming.

Education Program – Other (EPO) Funding (Cont'd): One-Time Investment to Support Students Impacted by Changes to Autism Services

- In March and June 2016, the government, led by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, announced a redesign to community autism services and the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP), to be implemented starting June 2017.
- EDU is providing new one-time funding (\$39M in total) to all 72 school boards to support children through the transition period as the OAP is implemented. This support will allow school boards to:
 - Meet the increased demand for *Connections for Students* transition teams, including the hiring of additional personnel (e.g., professionals with ABA expertise); and
 - Provide school-based team support to support all students impacted by changes to autism services.
- As part of this \$39M, school boards will also be eligible to apply for funding to provide after-school skills development programs for children with ASD.

2017-18 GSN Consultations: Special Education Content

- On November 10th, 2016 the ministry held its annual consultation that will inform the 2017-18 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) cycle.
- Special Education was once again part of this annual consultation, and this year's discussion focused on:
 - Accountability
 - Individual Education Plan (IEP) Resources Guide, and
 - Increasing special education needs, particularly students with greater needs
- In 2015 the ministry conducted province-wide consultations on the 2016-17 Grants for Student Needs (GSN), where special education was a topic of discussion.
 - The *2016-17 Education Funding: A Guide To The Special Education Grant*, was developed in response to recommendations from the sector during these consultations.
 - The DSENA name change was also informed by feedback obtained during the 2016-17 GSN consultations.

Questions