

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM & SERVICES

5000

DRAFT March 29, 2026

SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY

5010

1. Rationale

Lakehead District School Board believes in the ability of every student to learn and to benefit from learning. Lakehead District School Board believes that every student has the right to an instructional program appropriate to their individual needs, within the spectrum of services defined and described in the Special Education Plan.

2. Policy

It is the policy of Lakehead District School Board to provide education for all students with special needs as defined by the Ontario Education Act and Regulations.

3. Guiding Principles

3.1 Lakehead District School Board supports the following guiding principles for the education of students with special needs developed in consultation with parents/guardians, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and other appropriate organizations.

There shall be a focus on:

- the whole child;
- equitable and inclusive education;
- high expectations for all students;
- early identification of students needs and intervention;
- a continuum of support services and resources;
- partnerships with parents, teachers, professional staff and the community supported by ongoing communication;
- support for teachers and support staff to develop the necessary skills and teaching strategies to teach all students; and
- learning opportunities designed to meet the needs of each student.

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3.2 Lakehead District School Board shall provide:

- program options, which are annually reviewed by the Board;
- student/teacher ratios as required under the Ontario Education Act for the different exceptionalities;
- fair access to specialized programs;
- inclusion experiences within the school as much as possible;
- consistent Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) processes; and
- assessment and evaluation procedures consistent with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 4021 Assessment and Evaluation Policy, and related procedures.

3.3 This policy is applied subject to current Ministry of Education directives.

4. Review

This policy shall be reviewed according to 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
Lakehead District School Board Special Education Plan	February 25, 2003	Ontario Education Act
1020 Equity and Inclusive Education Policy and Procedures	(Consolidation of 5010, 5020, 5021, 5040)	
3040 Transportation Policy and Procedures		
4021 Assessment and Evaluation Policy and Procedures	<u>Date Revised</u> January 24, 2012 April 23, 2019	
2010 Policy Development and Review Policy and Procedures		