

Quality Program Indicators

Promoting the consistent delivery of quality special education programs and services across the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.





This document was produced through the efforts of the Learning Support Services Department of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

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Quality Program Indicators

Preface



Preface

Quality Program Indicators provide both direction and expectation for our specialized classroom teachers. These indicators were first developed in 2006 and have undergone revisions based on what we have learned over the past five years. Teachers, principals, consultants and program reviews have contributed to these program indicators.

Teaching and learning are ever changing to meet student needs. Indicators demonstrate the standard and consistency that is expected in our specialized classes. The Quality Program Indicators provide an opportunity to discuss where the teacher and students are compared to the expected indicators. This discussion should assist in understanding "what" is expected, "how" to reach the indicator, and "what" are the best practices.

Our Quality Program Indicators are unique to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board but are used by other jurisdictions to examine their offerings to students.

Our team of Learning Support Consultants deserve special thanks for always reflecting, refining, re-examining and renewing our supports and learning opportunities to students with special needs. Our Learning Support team is dedicated to improving the lives of our students through "rich" educational experiences for all. Quality Program Indicators are our guide.

Striving for the best, and learning together.

Dawn Paxton

Superintendent of Learning Support Services Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

Preamble

Purpose of Quality Program Indicators

The revised document is comprised of all Quality Program Indicators (QPI) for each of the specialized program classes. It has been designed to provide principals and specialized program class teachers with a comprehensive overview of the specialized program classes in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) and to promote consistent delivery of programming.

Organization of the Document

The QPI document has 5 sections.

Section 1: Specialized Program Class Overviews

This section is a point of reference for each type of specialized program class in the OCDSB. A table for each program outlines the placement information (i.e. grade levels and size of classes), admission criteria, criteria for change in placement, allocated staff, and profiles of students placed in each program.

Section 2: Teaching Practice

This section is composed of five subsections that are entitled:

- Effective Academic Programming
- Effective Alternative Programming
- Effective Teaching Strategies
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Integration

All subsections are organized in the same manner. The first page(s) in each subsection consist(s) of a checklist of activities or tasks to be referred to by specialized program teachers as they develop and facilitate their program. Each of the activities listed in these checklists apply to multiple or all programs.

Following the checklist found at the front of each subsection that applies to all (or many) programs, additional activities that apply specifically to individual specialized programs are listed. They are arranged, alphabetically, by specialized program class and should be reviewed and utilized in

addition to the overall checklist at the beginning of each subsection.

Section 3: Commitment to Student Success

The Commitment to Student Success section is composed of two subsections that cover the following areas:

- Physical Layout of the Classroom
- Classroom Management Strategies

These subsections are organized in the same manner as found in Section 2 (see above).

Section 4: Leadership and Community

The Leadership and Community section is divided into three subsections, each with multiple associated tasks. The items included in each area are applicable to all specialized program classes.

The three subsections are:

- Roles and responsibilities for principals and vice principals in schools where specialized program classes are located.
- Tasks for administrators and teachers when working with educational assistants.
- Activities to foster community understanding.

Summary

The intent of this document is to bring together into one document all of the information previously printed in separate documents for each specialized program class. The goal of the document is also to provide teachers and administrators with a point of reference from which to develop their program and to give a more thorough overview of the various specialized program classes in the OCDSB. Review and use of this document will provide clarity regarding the alignment and differences between the specialized programs available in this board and will promote consistency between the various specialized programs.





Section 1Specialized Program Class Overviews

This section is a point of reference for each type of specialized program class in the OCDSB. A table for each program outlines the placement information (i.e. grade levels and size of classes), admission criteria, criteria for change in placement, allocated staff, and profiles of students placed in each program.

Asperger's Syndrome Program (ASP)

This class supports students with Asperger's Syndrome to pursue an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students learn social/communication skills during Learning Strategies classes. It is expected that students will be integrated to the greatest extent possible in order to attain credits.

Placements

- specialized classes at the following level: secondary
- up to ten students per class

Admission Criteria

- a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome as specified by DSM-IV
- documented evidence of average to above average cognitive level; impaired communication, social skills and an uneven learning profile

Criteria for Change in Placement

- has social and/or academic needs which can be met more successfully within another placement
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations (e.g. attendance)

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- two educational assistant(s) per class
- consultative services of a psychologist

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

Academic Profile

- specific learning disabilities; most commonly similar to a non-verbal learning disability
- significant weaknesses in writing skills and general organizational skills
- topics they highly prefer to talk about

Communication Profile

- impairments in processing verbal information
- difficulty making themselves understood
- difficulty expressing their thoughts in writing
- atypical prosody of speech (e.g., monotone, very loud or very soft spoken, cluttering speech)

Social Profile

- inappropriate social interactions
- pragmatic/social language impairments
- frequent frustration with their lack of social skills and difficulty making friends

Behaviour Profile

- frustration with school and aggressiveness towards others
- difficulty with self-regulatory behaviours (e.g., speaking out, mumbling, self-stimulation)
- marked difficulties in unstructured situations (e.g., recess, lunch time, in hallways)

Autism Program (AUT)

This program emphasizes the development of academic skills, functional communication, self help/life skills, and appropriate behaviour.

Placements

- specialized classes at the following levels: primary, junior, intermediate, and secondary
- up to six students per class

Admission Criteria

 a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) category as specified by DSM-IV

Criteria for Change in Placement

- has social and/or academic needs which can be met more successfully within another placement
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations (e.g. attendance)

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- two educational assistant(s) per class
- consultative services of a psychologist and a speech/language pathologist

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

Academic Profile

- primarily visual learners and have significant difficulty processing auditory information
- require frequent/constant support for task completion and attending or participating in groups
- require an IEP with alternative curriculum expectations

Communication Profile

- impairments in verbal/non-verbal basic communication skills
- significant oral-motor difficulties
- require augmentative or alternative communication systems

Social Profile

- inappropriate social interactions
- pragmatic/social language impairment

Behaviour Profile

- aggressive to self and/or others
- difficulty with self-regulatory behaviours
- behaviour(s) which threaten(s) the safety of self or others

Behaviour Intervention Program (BIP)

This program emphasizes the acquisition of academic skills, appropriate behavioural strategies, and social skills.

Placements

- specialized classes at the following levels: primary, junior, intermediate, and secondary
- up to eight students per class

Admission Criteria

- exhibits extreme difficulty coping in the community school
- typically exhibits many or all of the following behaviours: verbal aggression, physical aggression, profound inability to build or maintain interpersonal relationships, excessive anger, severe non-compliance, extreme lack of impulse control, extreme low self-esteem, extreme defiant behaviour
- an inability to learn that cannot be traced to intellectual, sensory, or other health factors

Criteria for Change in Placement

- the behavioural functioning is no longer the most significant determining influence on the student's academic success or social adjustment in school
- has social and/or academic needs that can be met more successfully within a different special class setting
- has been integrated and demonstrated the ability to succeed in a regular class with/ without resource and/or learning centre support
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations (e.g. attendance)

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- educational assistant per class

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

- require constant supervision in order to maintain a safe learning environment
- profound inability to build or maintain interpersonal relationships

- excessive anger
- severe non-compliance
- extreme lack of impulse control
- verbal threats and/or physically aggressive behaviour
- extreme low self-esteem
- defiant behaviour

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program (D/HH)

This program is designed for students with permanent sensorineural hearing loss who communicate using American Sign Language (ASL) and require an individualized program with intensive support to progress through the Ontario Curriculum.

Placements

- specialized classes at the following levels: pre-school, kindergarten, primary, junior, intermediate
- up to ten students per class (pre-school/kindergarten attendance may be half time or full time at the discretion of administration)

Admission Criteria

- audiological report stating permanent sensorineural hearing loss and cognitive ability to access the Ontario Curriculum
- parents/guardians have chosen American Sign Language (ASL) as the method of communication

Criteria for Change in Placement

- change in hearing loss or performance (i.e. acquisition of a cochlear implant and requires auditory-verbal therapy)
- student requires/requests placement in a Provincial School setting

Available Resources

- one teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- educational assistants based on student needs

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

- ability to progress through the Ontario Curriculum with modifications and accommodations, as necessary
- require instruction from a teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing on a daily basis

Developmental Disability Program (DD)

This program emphasizes the development of academic skills and independent living with a focus on social adjustment.

Placements

Semi-Integrated Classes in Designated Schools

- semi-integrated specialized classes at the following levels: primary, junior, intermediate, and senior
- up to 10 students per class

Two Specialized Schools/Sites: Clifford Bowey Public School and The Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education

- specialized schools with classes at the following levels: kindergarten, primary, junior, intermediate and senior
- up to eight students per class

Admission Criteria

- moderate to severe delays in intellectual ability as measured on a psychological assessment (at or below 0.1st percentile)
- serious delays in academic progress
- moderate to severe delays in adaptive functioning

Criteria for Change in Placement

- has social and/or academic needs which can be met more successfully within another placement
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- two educational assistants primary/junior semi-integrated; one educational assistant
 senior semi-integrated
- consultative services from a psychologist and a speech/language pathologist

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

Academic Profile

- limited intellectual potential for academic learning
- working on modified and alternative curriculum expectations
- requires program emphasis on developing functional academic, communication and daily living skills
- requires intensive instructional support
- long-term goal is to encourage independent daily living

Social Profile

- limited means of communication.
- delays in social interaction and basic daily living skills
- requires frequent redirection and guidance
- difficulty with self control

Dual Support Program (DSP)

This program is designed to address the needs of students who meet criteria for General Learning Program placement but also require a more structured learning environment due to co-existing, moderate to severe behaviour problems.

Placements

- specialized classes at the following levels: junior, intermediate, and secondary
- up to ten students per class

Admission Criteria

- history of requiring frequent interventions due to disruption, non-compliance, physical/ verbal aggression, impulsivity, etc.
- history of socially unacceptable behaviour
- significantly below-average intellectual potential as measured on a psychological assessment
- serious delays in the acquisition of fundamental academic skills exacerbated by behaviour problems
- impaired adaptive functioning (e.g. coping with life demands, personal/independence)

Criteria for Change in Placement

- does not require the same degree of alternative programming
- has academic and/or social needs that could be met more successfully within a different special class setting
- has the ability to succeed in a regular class with LST and/or LST support/monitoring
- no longer benefiting from specialized program placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- two educational assistant per class

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

Elementary:

 working below 10th percentile for age in language arts and mathematics – more than 2 years below grade level

Secondary:

working several years below grade level in language arts and mathematics

All Sections – Academic Profile:

- able to attain some provincial curriculum expectations, but only with extensive modification and support
- potential for academic learning is further marked by behavioural difficulties
- working primarily on IEP goals/expectations which include alternative programming expectations
- requires program emphasis on developing interpersonal and life skills
- requires intensive instructional support

Cognitive Profile

- limited intellectual potential for academic learning mild intellectual disability
- generally between the 1st and 4th percentile for age
- secondary psychiatric diagnosis and/or indication of severe behavioural challenges

Social Profile

Students may exhibit some or all of the following characteristics:

- limited means of communication
- marked difficulty with impulse control and behaviour management
- severe non-compliance and/or aggressive behaviours
- marked difficulty building/maintaining satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers
 or teachers and/or difficulty interacting with others in socially acceptable ways
- extremely low self-esteem

General Learning Program (GLP)

This program is designed to maximize the learning potential of students and to develop academic, social, work and life skills.

Placements

- Junior, Intermediate, Secondary
- up to 16 students per class

Admission Criteria

- significantly below-average intellectual potential as measured on a psychological assessment
- significant delays in academic progress
- evidence of delays in communication, social/emotional development, and daily living skills/adaptive functioning

Criteria for Change in Placement

- does not require the same degree of alternative programming
- has academic and/or social needs that could be met more successfully within a different special class setting
- has the ability to succeed in a regular class with LST/LRT support and with appropriate accommodations and modifications
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- one educational assistant
- consultative services provided by CCAC in the areas of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy on a regular basis

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

Academic Profile

Elementary: working below the 10th percentile for age in Language Arts and mathematics – more than 2 years below grade level

Secondary: working several years below grade level in Language Arts and mathematics

All Sections – Academic Profile:

- working primarily on IEP goals/expectations which include alternative programming
- requires program emphasis on developing daily living/adaptive skills
- requires intensive instructional support

Cognitive Profile

limited intellectual potential for academic learning — mild intellectual disability Elementary: generally between the 1st and 4th percentile for age Secondary: 1st to 4th percentile for age

Social Profile

- limited expressive and receptive language skills; difficulty with communication
- difficulty with social interactions and basic daily living skills/adaptive functioning
- academic frustration
- history of attendance issues related to academic frustration/school refusal

Gifted Program (GIF)

Students work towards grade-level expectations as outlined in the Ontario Curriculum. The program is designed to encourage the development of complex thinking and problem-solving skills using extension activities. The program allows children of similar interests and abilities to work together. The program is in English only for grades 1 through 4. There is a choice of French Immersion Gifted or English Gifted (with core French) from grades 5 through 12.

Placements

- Primary (up to 20 students per class, grades 1-3)
- Junior, Intermediate (up to 25 students per class, grades 4-8)
- Secondary (grades 9-12)

Admission Criteria

 meets the OCDSB criteria for gifted identification as outlined in the Gifted Screening and Identification Manual

Criteria for Change in Placement

- has academic and/or social needs that could be met more successfully within a different classroom setting
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations (e.g. attendance)

Available Resources

• one teacher with special education qualifications

Student Profile

Students must meet the following admission criteria:

Primary (Grades 1-4)

- nomination by either teacher or parent
- assessed on the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) with scores at the 99th percentile on two of the three scales and at least the 90th percentile on the third scale
- has the majority of ratings in the Advanced or Unusually Advanced categories on the

Student Profile Form completed by the school

- where available, and reviewed by a board psychologist, individual assessment results
 from the WISC-III or WISC-IV (Canadian Norms) or Stanford-Binet yielding a Verbal or
 Full Scale score at or above the 99.6th percentile in combination with strong Student
 Profile Form completed by the school; alternatively, a score of 99.6th percentile or above
 in Perceptual Reasoning accompanied by at least a score of 95th percentile on the Verbal
 Score
- application approved by the Central Recommendation Committee

Junior/Intermediate (Grades 5-8)

- assessed on the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) and, if necessary, the Canadian Achievement Test (CAT3) with profile points totaling 8 or more (see the OCDSB Screening and Identification Manual for full details)
- individual assessment results as reviewed by a board psychologist
- Parent Information Form (to provide background)
- Student Profile Form (to provide background)

Language Learning Disabilities Program (LLD)

This program focuses on the development of academic and language skills.

Placements

- specialized classes at the following levels: primary, junior
- up to ten students per class in Primary, and up to twelve students per class in Junior

Admission Criteria

- exhibits severe language learning delays on a speech/language assessment
- average or above average intellectual ability as measured on a psychological assessment
- language learning disability is the primary diagnosis

Criteria for Change in Placement

- mildly delayed language functioning overall (one or more areas of language may still indicate moderate delay son a speech and language assessment completed within the last 12 months)
- academic performance is within one grade level of the student's integrated class placement
- has academic and/or social needs that could be met more successfully within a different specialized class setting
- has the ability to succeed in a regular class with LST and/or LRT support
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- one Speech/Language Pathologist up to 1.5 days a week per class

Student Profile

Academic Profile

Students are verbal, but demonstrate severe delays with expressive and/or receptive language skills which may include:

- the comprehension and/or use of vocabulary and concepts of space, time and location
- expressive grammar, sentence formulation and written language skills
- narrative skills
- ability to follow classroom directions
- social language development and use
- verbal reasoning skills
- reading skills including phonological awareness and reading comprehension
- mathematical skills including problem solving and concept knowledge
- speech and sound productions affecting intelligibility

Social Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

- difficulty with peer relationships, but not aloof or seemingly unaware of others
- underdeveloped play skills
- difficulty identifying and/or expressing feelings
- frustration and acting out, behaviour is not the primary issue

Learning Disability Program (LD)

This program is for students who have been identified as having severe to profound learning disabilities and are unable to learn without intensive assistance.

Placements

- specialized classes at the following levels: junior, intermediate, and secondary
- up to eight students per class

Admission Criteria

- identified as having severe to profound learning disabilities
- average to above-average intellectual ability as measured on a psychological assessment
- require intensive instructional support
- has severe to profound difficulty in learning and processing information

Criteria for Change in Placement

- current assessments indicate student no longer meets learning disabilities admission criteria
- has academic (as demonstrated by current assessment) and/or social needs that could be met more successfully within a different special class setting or a provincial school
- has an ability to succeed in a regular class with LST and/or LRT support
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- Special Education/Learning Support Services personnel provide assessment and consultative services to the special education teacher

Student Profile

Students must demonstrate the following:

Academic Profile

- working below the 15th percentile for their age in two of the following areas: reading, written expression, or mathematics (e.g. 2 or more years below grade level)
- require intensive instructional support
- profound difficulty in learning and processing information
- require modifications or accommodations in all academic subject areas
- Elementary: work towards some grade level curriculum expectations
- Secondary: be able to work towards grade level expectations

Cognitive Profile

- a diagnosis of a learning disability identified in a current psychological assessment
- average or above average intellectual ability as measured by a psychological assessment
- a clearly defined processing deficit which is a functional part of the learning disability
- a very significant discrepancy between cognitive ability and academic achievement

Social/Behaviour Profile

 students demonstrate increasing emotional, social and/or behavioural problems as a response to the learning disability (e.g. frustration, low self-esteem, anxiety, withdrawal, inattention, distractibility)

Physical Support Program (PSP)

This program provides for academic needs and appropriate accommodations.

Placements

- specialized classes for primary, junior, intermediate, and secondary students
- up to 12 students per class

Admission Criteria

 medical diagnosis of a physical disability with significant programming adaptation requirements

Criteria for Change in Placement

- the student's physical condition no longer requires therapeutic interventions offered in the unit.
- the student's needs will be better met in an alternate placement
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations (e.g. attendance)

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications (Parts I and II)
- high level of educational assistants allocated based on students' needs
- consultative services provided by CCAC in the areas of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy on a regular basis

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

Academic Profile

- a wide range of intellectual ability
- identifiable learning disability
- oral/motor challenges
- some form of physical assistance
- require extra time for class work, tests and exams

Social Profile

- delays in social development
- inhibitions
- aggression towards self and others

Primary Special Needs Program (PSN)

This program focuses on continuous assessment to determine learning styles and teaching strategies that will support the development of academic skills.

Placements

- specialized classes at primary level
- up to 10 students per class

Admission Criteria

- need for one or more years in a intensive support program
- significant developmental delays in two or more of the following areas: intellectual, language, academic, and social/emotional development

Criteria for Change in Placement

- has turned or will turn 9 years of age during the calendar year
- does not require the same degree of alternative programming
- has the ability to succeed in a regular class or school-based special education program with appropriate modifications and/or accommodations
- no longer benefiting from specialized placement
- evidence of on-going successful integration
- not complying with program expectations (e.g. attendance)

Available Resources

- one teacher with special education qualifications
- one educational assistant per class
- consultative services of a Speech/Language Pathologist and Psychologist

Student Profile

Students may demonstrate the following:

Academic Profile

- pre-readiness to readiness skills
- intellectual profile which is below average
- significant delay in expressive and/or receptive language
- physical (fine or gross motor) delays

Social Profile

- lack of basic social skills
- weak interpersonal skills; immaturity
- social-emotional delays (e.g. weakness in acquisition of social cues/skills)
- frustration and acting out, but behaviour is not the primary issue
- difficulty with rules, routines
- difficulty with attention/concentration





Section 2 Teaching Practice

Subsections:

- Effective Academic Programming
- Effective Alternative ProgrammingEffective Teaching Strategies
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Integration

Teaching Practice Instructions

This section contains five subsections:

- Effective Academic Programming
- **Effective Alternative Programming**
- **Effective Teaching Strategies**
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Integration.

All subsections are organized in the same manner. The first page(s) in each subsection consist(s) of a checklist of activities or tasks to be referred to by specialized program teachers as they develop and facilitate their program. Each of the activities listed in these checklists apply all programs. For the Effective Alternative Programming subsection is the exception to this rule. For this subsection, the small check boxes indicate that the activity *does* apply to the individual program, while grey shading indicates that the activity *does not* apply to a program.

Following the checklist found at the front of each subsection that applies to all programs, additional activities that apply specifically to individual specialized programs are listed. They are broken down, alphabetically, by specialized program class and should be reviewed and utilized in addition to the overall checklist at the beginning of each subsection.

Legend

- Grey shading in a cell indicates that the activity does not apply to that specialized program.
- A small box inside a cell indicates that the activity does apply to that specialized program. The box may be used as a tracking tool for staff to monitor progress through the checklist.

Abbreviation	Specialized Program Class
ASP	Aspergers Program
AUT	Autism Program
BIP	Behaviour Intervention Program
DHH	Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program
DD	Developmental Disabilities Program
DSP	Dual Support Program
GIF	Gifted Program
GLP	General Learning Program
LLD	Language Learning Disabilities Program
LD	Learning Disabilities Program
PSN	Primary Special Needs Program
PSP	Physical Support Program



Subsection 1

Effective Academic Programming

Subsection 1: Effective Academic Programming

ALL PROGRAMS	
Create an individual profile of strengths and weaknesses based on information from relevant documentation (e.g. psychological assessments, educational assessments, etc.)	
Ensure programs support the expectations outlined in the students' IEPs	
Assess for learning in order to determine a baseline or starting point for programming for each student	
Accommodate and modify the curriculum to suit the varying needs of each student	
Incorporate Balanced Literacy strategies (e.g. read aloud, shared reading, and guided reading - elementary - as applicable)	
Clearly indicate grade level expectations and/or developmentally appropriate expectations	
Understand students' cognitive and/or (as applicable) language, physical, adaptive capabilities and work in consultation with the school's Multi-Disciplinary Team for clarification when necessary	
Have knowledge of curriculum at different grade levels	
Be aware that academic success builds self-esteem, which in turn often reduces behaviour difficulties	
Develop knowledge of and use assistive technology and specialized equipment	
Use student-based programming, taking into consideration each student's different interests, learning profile, and level of academic functioning (e.g. games, hands-on activities, group projects)	
Use high interest/low vocabulary, as well as age-appropriate material as often as possible	
Develop appropriate, challenging programming, focusing on specific academic goals and expectations	
Be aware of the characteristics of students with more than one exceptionality (i.e. behaviour and LD) and modify and accommodate for them appropriately	
Create transition plans as appropriate (i.e. for secondary students and students with ASD)	
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME PROGRAM (ASP)	
Develop an understanding of the defining characteristics of Asperger's Syndrome and the special challenges this will create in the educational milieu (e.g. academic abilities and social/communication, self regulation and organization difficulties, etc.)	
Develop, create and implement specific programs addressing challenges in the areas of: Social/Communication Skills, Self Regulation, and Organization	
Develop knowledge and understanding of various secondary diagnoses: anxiety, depression, ADHD, non-verbal LD, OCD	
Develop a general understanding of current trends/practices in the field of Aspergers (e.g. Collaborative Problem Solving)	
Develop an understanding of each student's psycho-educational profile	
AUTISM PROGRAM (AUT)	
Prioritize relevant areas of each student's curriculum (i.e. functional academics, communication, self-regulation, social skills)	
Collaborate with the assigned Speech/Language Pathologist to establish an effective and individual system of communication for each student	
Work in consultation with the LST/Department Head, Psychologist, Speech/Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapist when developing programming	
Develop an understanding of specific cognitive profiles and corresponding developmental stages (e.g. typical milestones at the 2 year age level)	

Develop knowledge of individual student learning profiles	
Teach to students' strengths	
Be aware of the systems that support augmentative communication (e.g. Picture Exchange Communication System, sign language, Boardmaker Software, communication books, Go Talk)	
Develop a general awareness of current trends/practices in the field of autism (e.g. The Greenspan Floor Time Model, ABLLS, TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication Handicapped Children) Model, The SCERTS Model, Applied Behaviour Analysis and Discrete Trial Training, Intensive Behavioural Intervention, Sensory Integration, visual supports, social stories, comic strip conversations, power cards, The Incredible 5 Point Scale, etc.)	
Be aware of which practices are supported by evidence based research	
BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)	
Use a highly structured, individualized academic program that involves consistent routines and practices	
Focus on the specific needs of each student (e.g., students with weak oral language skills)	
Develop knowledge of the regular program expectations	
Provide age appropriate programming	
Develop programs that allow for choice in activities	
Develop individualized short and long term academic goals with incentives to motivate and encourage students	
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the particular interests of students, incorporating those interests into daily lessons and programs	
Secondary: Review the one page school descriptions of courses outlining curriculum and evaluation practices (i.e. the one page requirements given to high school students when they begin a course)	
Secondary: Provide students with an opportunity to receive credits through Independent Learning Courses (ILCs) when applicable	
Secondary: Consider co-op experience for secondary students when readiness is indicated	
DEAF/HARD OF HEARING (DHH)	
Demonstrate proficiency in sign language	
Be aware of the different degrees of hearing loss and their implications for students	
Use student learning profiles	
Provide programming for early language acquisition	
Use a variety of strategies related to vocabulary development	
Develop an understanding of developmental stages	
Meet individual needs via speech and auditory training when required	
Develop an understanding of amplification systems, FM systems and sound fields	
Troubleshoot with hearing aids when problems arise	

Subsection 1: Effective Academic Programming

Develop knowledge of cochlear implants and their impact on students' learning	
Use communication books/agendas in order to communicate with parents to promote and understanding of academic expectations and program goals	
Be aware of the characteristics of deaf students with more than one exceptionality such as deaf/LD students, deaf/blind students, etc., and how to modify and accommodate appropriately	
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM (DD)	
Use an individualized functional academic program appropriate for students with developmental disabilities	
Although students are working on a modified program that is significantly below grade level, the goal is to work towards curriculum expectations that suit individual needs	
Use age appropriate programming when possible, keeping in mind students' social/emotional development	
DUAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (DSP)	
Use a highly structured, individualized academic program that involves consistent routines and practices	
Modify the curriculum to incorporate an individualized functional academic program appropriate for students with mild intellectual disabilities	
Provide open ended programming to facilitate different levels of academic functioning	
Develop individualized short and long term academic goals with incentives to motivate and encourage students	
GENERAL LEARNING PROGRAM	
Use a differentiated functional academic program appropriate for students with mild intellectual disabilities	
Modify the curriculum to incorporate an individualized functional academic program appropriate for students with mild intellectual disabilities	
Develop individualized short and long term academic goals with incentives to motivate and encourage students	
Provide realistic, achievable, challenging expectations	
GIFTED PROGRAM	
Use student-based programming, taking into consideration each student's different interests and learning profile as documented in psychological and/or educational assessments	
Understand the characteristics of gifted students with more than one exceptionality (e.g. gifted and LD) and how to program for them appropriately	
Focus in on the specific needs of each student (e.g. gifted students with weak oral language skills)	
Respect previous mastery of skills to avoid repetition of concepts already learned (e.g. use of pre-testing)	
Include choice in program development (content, product, process)	
Encourage real life participation in activities (e.g. book reviews that could be published, etc.)	
Fluctuate pace and compact curriculum to suit the needs of the students	

Be aware of the students' different learning styles, reacting to them and capitalizing on them	
Develop skills to extend programs - focusing on breadth and depth	
Encourage and facilitate leadership opportunities (e.g. Science Olympics, math competitions, Earth Day, The Geography Challenge, Remembrance Day, etc.)	
LANGUAGE LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LLD)	
Develop an understanding of students' learning profiles (i.e. strengths and weaknesses of their LLD)	
Be aware of the difference between the terms "speech" and "language"	
Understand the communicative process of listening, speaking, reading, and writing	
Be aware of the language demands placed on students	
Collaborate and work closely with the Speech/Language Pathologist when planning and implementing programs (e.g. team teaching, working in the classroom, collaborative IEP development, IPRC consultation, etc.)	
LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LD)	
Be aware of what it means to have a learning disability (including social/emotional and academic factors)	
Develop an understanding of students' learning profiles (i.e. strengths and weaknesses of their learning disabilities)	
As needed, be aware of the characteristics of students with more than one exceptionality (i.e. behaviour and LD) and modify and accommodate for them appropriately	
Develop knowledge of the regular program expectations	
Collaborate with colleagues in the regular program	
Develop knowledge and understanding of the particular interests of students, incorporating those interests into daily lessons and programs	
PHYSICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSP)	
Develop a thorough understanding of the student's physical disabilities	
Understand cognitive abilities and program strategies for a varied group	
Use an individualized functional academic program when applicable	
Provide real life experience	
Work in consultation with the LST/Department Head, Psychologist, Speech/Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist (CCAC) when developing programming	
Provide health education, which is essential in order to teach about the limits of the body. This could be coordinated with the Physiotherapist (CCAC), Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre (OCTC) Liaison Teachers, Disabilities Awareness Program, etc.	
Provide multi-leveled programming	

Subsection 1: Effective Academic Programming

PRIMARY SPECIAL NEEDS (PSN)	
Use programming the focuses on life skills (e.g. personal hygiene, safety awareness, etc.); adaptive functioning (e.g. interpersonal skills, relationship building, personal independence, etc.); work-related skills (e.g. exhibiting appropriate work habits and behaviour, taking direction, etc.); communication skills (e.g. recognizing body language, expressing ideas clearly, making eye contact, etc.) and augmentative communication (e.g. gestures, picture symbols, drawings, etc.)	
Collaborate and work closely with the Speech/Language Pathologist when planning and implementing students' programs	
Although students will be working on a modified curriculum that is significantly below grade level, use of age appropriate programming is essential when possible - high interest/low vocabulary material should be used	
Provide open ended programming to facilitate different levels of academic functioning	



Subsection 2

Effective Alternative Programming

Subsection 2: Effective Alternative Programming

Activity	ASP	AUT	BIP	DHH	DD	DSP	GIF	GLP	LLD	LD	PSN	PSP
ALL PROGRAMS												
Create an individual profile of strengths and areas of need based on information from relevant documentation (e.g. social work assessments, psychological assessments, etc.)												
Allow for specific skills time - group students accordingly and work with them in smaller groups (e.g. social skills)												
When students are transitioning between various activities and settings (i.e., entry to school, between activities, moving from elementary to secondary, moving from one school or program to another, etc.), incorporate a transition plan into the students' programs, scheduling information sessions, visits, and future goal setting (as applicable)												
Ensure programs support the alternative expectations outlined in the students' IEP - as applicable												
Use the alternative report card template found in the Web- Based IEP system to report student progress (Simple for Elementary, Simple/Complex for Secondary) - as required												
Work in consultation with the multi-disciplinary team, the educational assistants, outside agencies, and community resources to develop appropriate alternative programming												
Incorporate life skills, adaptive functioning, communication skills, augmentative communication skills, motor skills, leisure-time skills, vocational skills, and community living skills into the program to help prepare them for the future												
Provide explicit teaching of social skills with a focus on (as applicable) social boundaries, reading social cues, self esteem building, positive relationships, goal setting, making choices, gaining control, controlling impulses, reducing aggression towards self and others, and/or developing power/insight into triggers												
Teach self advocacy skills, foster independence to reduce learned helplessness												
Teach feelings through expressive language												
Provide alternative curriculum that focuses on students' greatest area of need, as well as strength												
Be aware of hierarchy of alternative programming expectations (e.g. teaching a student to return a greeting before teaching a student to spontaneously greet someone)												
Prioritize alternative programming expectations (e.g. make self-regulation a priority over teaching curriculum, or make decreasing aggression a priority over teaching a student how to put on a coat or write a paragraph, etc.)												

rategies (Course GI	_E 10/20	for high	school pl	acement	s)			

Subsection 2: Effective Alternative Programming

GIFTED PROGRAM (GIF)	
Develop an understanding of the social/emotional/cultural needs of gifted learners (e.g. risk taking, fear of failure, anxiety, perfectionism, underachieving, etc.)	
Encourage students to gain a clear understanding of their own social/emotional needs	
Teach and encourage the use of self-advocacy, communication and social skills focusing on the use of compromise and tact	
Encourage leadership qualities - teach tact for good leadership and provide sound leadership opportunities (e.g. organizing fund raisers, presenting workshops to parents, sports, Student's Council initiatives, etc.)	
Develop an understanding of students' emotional intelligence	
Explicitly teach students how to empathize with others	
Teach stress and time management skills in relation to self advocacy (e.g. breaking assignments down into shorter time lines)	
Monitor students' ability to balance their workload, watching for stress and overload	
LANGUAGE LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LLD)	
Not applicable	
LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LD)	
Not applicable	
PHYSICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSP)	
Provide a program based on building self-esteem, acceptance and knowledge	
Teach students how to direct EAs so that when students are working with new staff, they are able to express their needs appropriately	
PRIMARY SPECIAL NEEDS (PSN)	
Not applicable	



Subsection 3

Effective Teaching Strategies

Subsection 3: Effective Teaching Strategies

ALL PROGRAMS	
Use assistive technology, where appropriate	
Use a structured delivery model with clear routines and expectations	
Use clear, appropriate language/instructions delivered in a calm and gentle manner that are broken down into sequential steps	
Use strategies to address various learning styles (e.g. Visual, Auditory, Tactile/Kinesthetic)	
Use key visuals (e.g. charts, diagrams, etc.) in order to help students focus on and retain important information	
Provide tasks sequenced from simple to more complex	
Use regular redirection and cueing	
Provide ongoing reinforcement - pair reinforcement with verbal praise - praise effort as well as specific behaviour)	
Be aware of when to use different delivery methods, being flexible when necessary (e.g. small group instruction, one-to-one instruction, hands on learning, experiential learning, etc.)	
Use incentives to motivate and encourage students to accomplish tasks	
Allow for processing time	
Use task analysis or chaining techniques (e.g. breaking a task down into its steps to be followed for completion)	
Follow least preferred activities by preferred activities	
Repeat key concepts to ensure students retain information and build on skills over time	
Provide a variety of materials which differ in the levels of complexity	
Use modeling, and, when appropriate provide a model of a finished product	
Chunk information and provide frequent breaks (e.g. functional body breaks when possible)	
Use visual schedules and mini-schedules (i.e. individual small schedules to suit students' needs)	
Use materials which incorporate student interests	
Provide verbal information paired with visual support in order to tap into different learning styles and strengths (in some cases American Sign Language and Signed English)	
Vary the quantity of content depending upon ability levels of students	
Develop a strong teacher/student relationship developing trust	
Provide multiple opportunities for re-teaching	
Use graphic organizers and visual supports (e.g. daily schedules, story boards, etc.)	
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME PROGRAM (ASP)	
Use graphic organizers and visual supports (e.g. daily schedules, story boards, etc.)	

Provide extended time for completion of assignments	
Reduce homework assignments whenever possible	
Break assignments into smaller increments/expectations	
Provide time during the day to work on homework/assignments	
Maximize support and use of personnel to promote independence	
AUTISM PROGRAM (AUT)	
Deliver curriculum using the students individual system of communication (e.g. verbal, sign, PEC, PCS, etc.)	
Use age appropriate materials where possible	
Gain students' attention before giving a direction	
Develop knowledge of prompt hierarchy reflected in prompting techniques	
Use shaping and fading procedures	
BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)	
Not applicable	
DEAF/HARD OF HEARING (DHH)	
Implement accommodations and modifications suitable for deaf/hard of hearing students	
Develop knowledge of standards for sign language	
Provide explicit instruction	
Break information into segments so that students have the opportunity to process, before moving on - pausing or providing frequent breaks for understanding	
Encourage multi-age flexible groups	
Provide opportunities for re-teaching materials	
Use a video camera as a tool for teaching and reviewing	
Use close captioning	
Provide real life experiences to broaden exposure (e.g. field trips)	
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM (DD)	
Allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in a variety of ways (e.g. oral, augmentative communication systems, ASL, Signed English, gestures, pointing, computer use, etc.) as well as paper/pencil tasks	

Subsection 3: Effective Teaching Strategies

DUAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (DSP)	
Provide hands on manipulatives whenever possible	
GENERAL LEARNING PROGRAM (GLP)	
Not applicable	
GIFTED PROGRAM (GIF)	
Use an enriched teaching style - provide varied ways of getting information across to students (e.g. guest speakers, field trips, conferences, etc.)	
Facilitate the spirit of co-learning drawing from a variety of personal experiences (e.g travel, hobbies, etc.)	
Increase challenge through the use of higher level thinking skills (e.g. Bloom's Taxonomy)	
Encourage discovery learning through exploration of new concepts	
Develop learning experiences which include the use of such frameworks as Multiple Intelligences, Blooms Taxonomy, CORT Program of Thinking Skills, Creative Problem Solving, Emotional Intelligence Programs, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, etc.	
Encourage the use of meta-cognition, divergent thinking, critical thinking, logical thinking and creative thinking	
Provide regular opportunities to discuss academic or social/emotional issues with students (e.g. scheduled "Teacher Chat" time)	
LANGUAGE LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LLD)	
Differentiate according to various learning styles: Visual: use directions, visual imagery, demonstrations, charts, graphs, maps, colour coding systems, dictionaries, written instructions, checklists, rubrics, highlighting Auditory: encourage talking through tasks, thinking out loud, repeat, rephrase, simplify information and modify classroom language, reduce time between presentation and response, increase the wait time following questions Tactile/Kinesthetic: include movement and exploration activities, manipulative materials, a multi-sensory approach to learning, concrete/hands on materials	
Enhance students' understanding of their learning needs, strengths, and styles	
Develop students' ability to self advocate by developing their understanding of which strategies are most effective for them	
LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LD)	
Differentiate according to various learning styles: Visual: use directions, visual imagery, demonstrations, charts, graphs, maps, colour coding systems, dictionaries, written instructions, checklists, rubrics, highlighting Auditory: encourage talking through tasks, thinking out loud, repeat, rephrase, simplify information and modify classroom language, reduce time between presentation and response, increase the wait time following questions Tactile/Kinesthetic: include movement and exploration activities, manipulative materials, a multi-sensory approach to learning, concrete/hands on materials	
Allow for choice in activities	

Group students in an equitable manner (i.e. mixed cultural, racial, gender, linguistic groups) with attention to students' needs, interests, abilities and motivation	
Reduce homework assignments whenever possible	
DUVELCAL CURRORT DROCE AM (DCD)	
PHYSICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSP)	
Use adaptive learning tools (e.g. slant boards, etc.) when necessary	
Provide frequent breaks and physical activity - prevent sitting for long periods	
Provide hands on concrete use of manipulatives	
Provide small and large group centres with flexible groupings	
Schedule daily routines to meet the needs of the students	
Delivery the program in manageable chunks	
Break down large assignments into manageable components with shorter term deadlines	
PRIMARY SPECIAL NEEDS (PSN)	
Not applicable	





Subsection 4

Assessment and Evaluation

Subsection 4: Assessment and Evaluation

ALL DROCDAMC	
ALL PROGRAMS	
Use of Provincial Report Card and/or Alternative Report Card (Simple: Elementary; Complex: Secondary) to report on student programming	
Ensure that assessment and evaluation practices are linked to those outlined on the IEP	
Allow students to demonstrate learning in a variety of ways (e.g. oral, product, demonstration, drawings, maps, collages, dioramas, tape recorded answers, poster charts, videos, etc.) as well as paper/pencil tasks	
Develop and use evaluation tools which measure student growth during the study of a topic or unit and that are suitable to the needs of the students (e.g. ongoing anecdotal checklists; checklists to target specific skills such as: pragmatic assessment list, anxiety level assessment list, stress survey schedules; use rubrics; use student portfolios; in-class questioning; oral tests; one to one teacher conferences; written tests/exams	
When appropriate, use formal assessment tools (e.g. WIAT III, PM Benchmarks, Dolch Word Lists, Kindergarten Checklists, subtests of the Brigance, PIAT II, Larsen-Hammell Diagnostic Spelling, CASI, Diagnostic Phonics Test, YCAT - Young Children's Achievement Test, TERA-3 - Test of Early Reading Ability, ELOT - Early Learning Observation Tool, DRA)	
Provide realistic, achievable, challenging expectations	
Provide students with the expectations being assessed and explain how they are being assessed (e.g. provide models, review checklists, etc.)	
Teach and provide opportunities for student reflection and self-assessment (e.g. student created rubrics, checklists, joint goal setting, questioning, monitoring their own written and oral language, etc.)	
Provide assessment using methods suitable to the needs of the student (e.g. allow for oral tests, portfolios, work samples, scribe, use of pictures, use of computers for written responses, reword questions, etc.)	
Use ABC (Antecedent, Behaviour, Consequences) charts, graphing data behaviour plans and tally sheets for data collection for behaviours of concern	
Provide appropriate accommodations to support student learning (e.g. extended time for tests/exams, scribing or use of computer)	
Use evaluation strategies that reflect students' prior knowledge (e.g. Know-Wonder-Learn Chart)	
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME PROGRAM (ASP)	
Not applicable	
AUTISM PROGRAM (AUT)	
Track academic work separately through various methods (e.g. checklists, anecdotal rubrics/records) (particularly when activities involve manipulatives and there is no final student product)	
BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)	
Not applicable	
DEAF/HARD OF HEARING (DHH)	
Assess sign language as a form of expressive language	
Use video taping as a method of evaluating oral/expressive presentations	

Allow for the use of assistive technology and familiarize students of the proper etiquette when using it (e.g. TTY etiquette)	
Collaborate with the regular classroom teacher to ensure accurate assessment measures are being used when students are integrated	
Encourage students to self assess and self advocate (e.g. become aware of limitations and strengths and seek support independently when necessary)	
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM (DD)	
Ensure IEPs clearly indicate grade level expectations (semi-integrated program)	
DUAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (DSP)	
Not applicable	
GENERAL LEARNING PROGRAM (GLP)	
Not applicable	
GIFTED PROGRAM (GIF)	
Use effective evaluation strategies that benefit all students	
Develop assessment strategies geared towards the abilities of gifted learners (e.g. self, peer, and expert evaluation)	
Use questioning that draws upon the higher levels of thinking (e.g. Bloom's Taxonomy)	
Allow for outside community members from professional organizations to come in and evaluate student work (e.g. civil engineer to evaluate bridge design)	
Use product choice charts	
LANGUAGE LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LLD)	
Not applicable	
LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LD)	
Provide models of finished products and/or complete the task as a guided/shared activity	
PHYSICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSP)	
Allow academic work to be tracked separately (particularly when activities involve manipulatives and there is no final student product to go by)	
PRIMARY ORFOLAL MEEDS (DOM)	
PRIMARY SPECIAL NEEDS (PSN)	
Not applicable	





Subsection 5Integration

Subsection 5: Integration

ALL PROGRAMS	
Be aware that some students may integrate more than others, but that the goal is to promote integration**	
Develop a systematic and sequential plan for integration, optimizing students success while recognizing that some students require intensive support for longer periods of time **	
Be aware of the regular program expectations and teaching styles, matching students accordingly to promote successful integration **	
Ensure students integrate into classes with age appropriate peers in order to foster appropriate social skills development **	
Provide the regular classroom teachers with specific background information about the student, guidelines for interaction, specific behaviour programs, and goals for integration, as needed **	
Provide ongoing communication with the regular classroom teacher in order to provide guidelines and consultation with student, teacher and educational assistant **	
Use of IEP Summary Layout page as a method of communicating students' needs **	
Involve students in whole-school initiatives (e.g. assemblies, student-led conferences, school improvement plans, heritage festivals, Author's Day, special events, etc.)**	
Provide opportunities to collaborate with staff when necessary in order to discuss issues that arise when students are integrated (e.g. weekly, biweekly meetings, etc.)**	
Provide reverse integration opportunities (e.g. reading buddies, cooking buddies, cooperative games, peer tutors, etc.) **	
Provide support to the regular classroom teacher in the form of modifications and accommodations (e.g. creating visuals to support classroom, modifying worksheets, etc.) and ensure that IEP expectations are being addressed**	
Outline and post emergency protocols clearly for all staff	
Arrange for classroom EAs to work with students in the regular class to support integration**	
Provide clear expectations that are outlined to EAs who accompany students to integration (e.g. student goals, respecting regular classroom teacher's approach and crisis management plan, etc.)**	
**For the DD program - this applies to the semi-integrated developmental disabilities classes only	
Note: For the secondary Autism Program, opportunities for integration may be limited by the class size of the potential integration class.	
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME PROGRAM (ASP)	
Not applicable	
AUTISM PROGRAM (AUT)	
Not applicable	
BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)	
Collaborate with classroom teachers when consequences are being given in order to offer insight into what is effective and what is not	

DEAF/HARD OF HEARING (DHH)	
Provide French exemptions to all students in the program	
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM (DD)	
Not applicable	
DUAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (DSP)	
Not applicable	
GENERAL LEARNING PROGRAM (GLP)	
Not applicable	
GIFTED PROGRAM (GIF)	
Educate other staff regarding the varying needs of gifted student	
At the elementary level, encourage reverse integration (i.e. having non-gifted students work in the gifted class) in order to build professional learning communities, to help dispel stereotypes, to help foster an understanding of gifted learning and to help gifted students relate with peers in the regular program	
Encourage participation and leadership in clubs and field trips with students in the regular program	
LANGUAGE LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LLD)	
Be aware that some students may integrate more than others but that the goal is to promote integration when possible	
Be aware that some students may integrate more than others but that the goal is to promote integration when possible	
Collaborate with students regarding their preferred learning modality	
Elementary: When possible, work in the regular classroom with the students that are being integrated	
Elementary: Allow opportunities to return to the LD class when necessary	
Encourage participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports, arts, games) and field trips with grade appropriate peers in the regular program	
LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LD)	
Be aware that some students may integrate more than others but that the goal is to promote integration when possible	
Collaborate with students regarding their preferred learning modality	

Subsection 5: Integration

Elementary: When possible, work in the regular classroom with the students that are being integrated	
Elementary: Allow opportunities to return to the LD class when necessary	
Encourage participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports, arts, games) and field trips with grade appropriate peers in the regular program	
PHYSICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSP)	
Ensure accessibility in integrated settings (appropriate space, location, etc.)	
PRIMARY SPECIAL NEEDS (PSN)	
Not applicable	



Section 3 Commitment to Student Success

Subsections:

- Physical Layout of the ClassroomClassroom Management Strategies

Commitment to Student Success — Instructions

This section contains two subsections which cover the following areas:

- Physical Layout of the Classroom
- Classroom Management Strategies

The first page in each subsection consists of a checklist of activities or tasks to be referred to by specialized program teachers as they develop and facilitate their program. For the Physical Layout of the Classroom section, all items can apply to each specialized program. For the Classroom Management Strategies section, each of the activities listed in the checklist can apply to multiple programs. The small check boxes indicate that the activity does apply to the individual program, while grey shading indicates that the activity does not apply to a program.

Following the checklist found at the front of each subsection that applies to all programs, additional activities that apply specifically to individual specialized programs are listed. They are broken down, alphabetically, by specialized program class and should be reviewed and utilized in addition to the overall checklist at the beginning of each subsection.

Legend

- Grey shading in a cell indicates that the activity does not apply to that specialized program.
- A small box inside a cell indicates that the activity does apply to that specialized program. The box may be used as a tracking tool for staff to monitor progress through the checklist.

Abbreviation	Specialized Program Class
ASP	Aspergers Program
AUT	Autism Program
BIP	Behaviour Intervention Program
DHH	Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program
DD	Developmental Disabilities Program
DSP	Dual Support Program
GIF	Gifted Program
GLP	General Learning Program
LLD	Language Learning Disabilities Program
LD	Learning Disabilities Program
PSN	Primary Special Needs Program
PSP	Physical Support Program



Subsection 1

Physical Layout of the Classroom

Subsection 1: Physical Layout of the Classroom

ALL PROGRAMS	
Ensure the classroom is inviting, tidy and well organized and ensure a safe environment (e.g. scissors and other potential weapons out of sight and reach)	
Provide or post emergency and safety information for supply and special subject teachers, (e.g. medical information, allergies, Behavior Management/Safety Plans, evacuation procedures)	
Post daily visual schedules posted (i.e. subjects, integration, field trips, special events, life skills)	
Create clearly defined, labelled activity areas (i.e. individual work spaces, group work areas, conferencing area, computer area, leisure reading/games area, break area)	
Provide appropriately labelled, organized, and accessible learning materials, including manipulatives	
Provide evidence of balanced literacy strategies used daily (i.e word wall, levelled reading material, guided reading instructional area)	
Post classroom rules that are written simply, visually and positively	
Provide strategic seating to students based on their specific academic/behavioural needs	
Provide a structured learning environment with clearly defined routines	
Provide access to computers and other assistive technology	
Provide students with their own personal space to reduce distractions and allow experience managing that space	
Post reinforcement descriptors, social skills cues, relaxation techniques, and/or positive incentives for visual reference	
Post teacher, EA, SLP, OT, PT and transportation schedules as appropriate	
Provide an area/reflection room within the classroom for reflection and calming strategies to be used	
Display students' work on bulletin boards	
Develop awareness of the sensory sensitivities of students (i.e lighting, noise, scent)	
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME PROGRAM (ASP)	
Provide an appropriate eating area for students who are unable to eat in the cafeteria	
Ensure students have access to individual lockers and a washroom within close proximity to the classroom or within the classroom	
An alternate entrance within close proximity to the classroom should be a priority when planning the room location	
Ensure there is a telephone in the classroom with an in house and outside line	
AUTISM PROGRAM (AUT)	
Ensure there is a telephone in the classroom with an in house and outside line	

BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)	
Provide designated roles for taking responsibility for their own work area and classroom - encourage and develop a sense of pride for their work environment	
Ensure there is a telephone in the classroom with an in house and outside line	
DEAF/HARD OF HEARING (DHH)	
Arrange for varied groupings keeping some areas open so that all students can see each other clearly	
Provide a variety of environmental print and a variety of tools for displaying print such as chart paper, black/white boards	
Provide a variety of appropriate books - specifically signed resources	
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM (DD)	
Not applicable	
DUAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (DSP)	
Ensure there is a telephone in the classroom with an in house and outside line	
GENERAL LEARNING PROGRAM (GLP)	
Not applicable	
GIFTED PROGRAM (GIF)	
Create a print-rich environment providing a variety of materials at various interest and reading levels	
Allow for change in the classroom structure in response to learning activities (i.e cooperative groups, individual work, computers for research, writing, etc)	
Change visuals regularly in order to maintain interest and to keep information current	
Provide and post obscure and interesting information in order to build interest and motivate students to explore	
At elementary level post classroom jobs assigned to students and rotate them regularly, helping to build classroom ownership and respect for the students' learning environment	
Provide alternative settings for learning (i.e library, computer lab, outdoors)	
LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LD)	
At elementary level provide organized space such as bin, cubby, basket, etc.	

Subsection 1: Physical Layout of the Classroom

Label or colour code learning activity areas	
LANGUAGE LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LLD)	
Post visuals from reading programs, i.e. Empower Reading Visuals	
At elementary level provide organized space such as bin, cubby, basket, etc.	
Label or colour code learning activity areas	
PHYSICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSP)	
Classroom and building must be accessible - widened doors, lower door handles, accessible furniture, electric openers on doors	
Classroom location to be based on accessibility (main floor location if possible)	
PRIMARY SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM (PSN)	
Not applicable	



Subsection 2

Classroom Management

Subsection 2: Classroom Management

Activity	ASP	AUT	BIP	DHH	DD	DSP	GIF	GLP	LLD	LD	PSN	PSP
ALL PROGRAMS												
Be aware of students' diagnosis, cognitive abilities, social/ emotional/cultural backgrounds and behavioural needs												
Provide and reinforce a clear, structured program with predicable routines and consistent consequences using an individually tailored behavioural incentive program as appropriate (i.e token, point system, praise)												
Collect baseline and ABC data when targeting a behaviour and developing a behaviour plan with both short and long term goals backed by visual supports												
Behaviour programs may include any or all of: self-esteem building, making choices, gaining control, personal power/insight into triggers, goal setting												
If needed develop a Behaviour Management Plan in consultation with parents, principal, psychologist and which is referenced in the IEP												
Teach self-regulatory skills (i.e use inside voice, gentle hands, recognizing triggers, calming strategies) and self-advocacy skills (ie - asking for help appropriately)												
Be aware of the Policy for Physical Restraints and Time Out Rooms (PR.626.SES) and the need for staff to be trained in and use NVCI techniques												
Create an environment that fosters intrinsic motivation by providing opportunities for success through appropriate academic programming												
Maintain regular communication between home and school												
Provide behaviour management information to drivers and communicate regularly with them to ensure follow up												
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME PROGRAM (ASP)												
Use proactive behaviour management strategies	Use proactive behaviour management strategies											
Provide students with choices												
Ensure consistency in program implementation												
Avoid punitive measures whenever possible												
Provide consultation with parents, classroom teacher, in-school and Multi-disciplinary Teams and relevant third party professionals when setting behaviour goals												

AUTISM PROGRAM (AUT)	
Use ongoing anecdotal observations to develop appropriate student profiles and to plan effective programming	
Provide consultation with parents, classroom teacher, in-school and Multi-disciplinary Teams and relevant third party professionals when setting behaviour goals	
Ensure that staff discuss student behaviour privately	
Provide constant reinforcement using a 4:1 positive to negative ratio and pair reinforcement with praise	
Provide opportunities for daily relaxation	
Ensure consistency in program implementation	
BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)	
Work to develop a strong teacher/student relationship by ensuring one-to-one time to learn students' interests, strengths, concerns	
Allow for structured breaks between periods that require significant concentration and self control	
Use a nonreactive, supportive and calm approach when dealing with anger and aggression	
Demonstrate positive role modeling with a focus on respect	
Provide opportunities to build and develop relationships with others (ie - integrating with positive peer group)	
Provide consequences that are logical, natural and meaningful	
Work with the LST/Department Head and Multi-disciplinary Team to develop programs and to access outside agencies when necessary (ie - YSB, CCAC, parent support groups)	
DEAF/HARD OF HEARING (DHH)	
Use visual models, dramatization, repetition and practice	
Provide step by step explicit behavioural expectations that are posted visually	
Teach and model appropriate ways of gaining attention	
Teach specific turn-taking skills	
Work in collaboration with the principal or vice-principal when behavioural difficulties arise	
Use visual cues on a regular basis	
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM (DD)	
Use visual models, dramatization, repetition and practice	

Subsection 2: Classroom Management

DUAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (DSP)	
Work to develop a strong teacher/student relationship by ensuring one-to-one time to learn students' interests, strengths, concerns	
Use a nonreactive, supportive and calm approach when dealing with anger and aggression	
Allow for structured breaks between periods that require significant concentration and self control	
Work with the LST/Department Head and Multi-disciplinary Team to develop programs and to access outside agencies when necessary (ie - YSB, CCAC, parent support groups)	
GENERAL LEARNING PROGRAM (GLP)	
Be aware of resources related to developing effective behaviour programs (ie - Magic 1-2-3)	
Use a nonreactive, supportive and calm approach when dealing with anger and aggression	
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GIFTED PROGRAM (GIF)	
Provide consequences that are logical, natural and linked to the behaviour keeping in mind the students' heightened sense of fairness	
Allow for dialogue and insight into problems when they arise	
Schedule regular class meetings to problem solve as a group and build cohesion	
When allowing for a choice in activities, limit the amount of choice offered in order to avoid frustration and anxiety arising from too much choice	
LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LD)	
Develop an understanding of students' behavioural needs and how they affect learning (anxiety, fear of failure, etc.) and use effective strategies to address social, emotional, cultural and behavioural needs and ensure success	
LANGUAGE LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LLD)	
Develop an understanding of students' behavioural needs and how they affect learning (anxiety, fear of failure, etc.) and use effective strategies to address social, emotional, cultural and behavioural needs and ensure success	
Teach explicitly facial expressions and other nonverbal cues along with listening skills and social cues	
PHYSICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (PSP)	
Foster an environment of respect and acceptance of individual differences	
Develop an understanding of students' behavioural needs and how they affect learning (anxiety, fear of failure, etc.) and use effective strategies to address social, emotional, cultural and	
behavioural needs and ensure success	

PRIMARY SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM (PSN)	
Provide consultation with parents, classroom teacher, in-school and Multi-disciplinary Teams and relevant third party professionals when setting behaviour goals	
Be aware of resources related to developing effective behaviour programs (i.e Magic 1-2-3)	





Section 4 Leadership and Community

Subsections:

- Principal/Vice Principal Roles and Responsibilities
- Working with Educational Assistants
- Fostering Community Understanding

Leadership and Community — Instructions

This section is composed of 3 subsections:

- Principal/Vice Principal Roles and Responsibilities
- Administration/Supervisory
- Policies and Procedures

This subsection consists of a checklist of items and 'look fors' that Principals and Vice-principals can use as they facilitate their specialized program teachers in developing their programs. Each of the activities listed in these checklists apply to multiple programs.

Working with Educational Assistants

This subsection contains suggestions and guidelines for teachers and administrators who work closely with educational assistants, as many specialized programs are staffed with educational assistants.

Fostering Community Understanding

This final subsection discusses ways in which specialized program teachers can develop and foster understanding of the unique characteristics of their students among both teaching staff and the wider school community including parents and students.

Principal/Vice Principal Roles and Responsibilities

Administration/Supervisory	
Implement the IEP and IPRC process	
Ensure that the expectations in the IEP are SMART Goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results-Based, Time-Framed	
Ensure a clear link exists between the IEP and the Provincial and/or Alternative report cards	
Provide support and/or input in case conferences, multi-disciplinary, and parent meetings	
Work in consultation with the In-School Team, Multi-Disciplinary Team (including the Learning Support Consultant), and parents to provide smooth transitions for students coming into or moving out of the program	
Ensure applications for Summer School Learning Programs are completed as applicable (i.e. DD and ASD programs)	
Access and communicate information to staff pertaining to workshops and PD (e.g., community groups, OCDSB, Autism folder on Beam, Federation funding etc.)	
Ensure that staff (including LST, Department Head, teacher, etc.) are aware of entry and demission criteria for specialized programs	
Ensure the Learning Support Consultant is notified when students move away or are demitted from the program	
Be aware of and communicate to staff the referral process for Service Coordination for post 21 programs when applicable	
Ensure teacher and LST are aware of the process of making referrals to Central Support teams (e.g. ASD Team, Behaviour Support Team, etc.)	
Ensure all staff members are aware of the emergency protocols (e.g. Behaviour Management Plans, Safety Procedures, seizure procedures, allergic reaction procedures, emergency signs for communicating with D/HH students, etc.)	
Ensure that behaviour management information is communicated regularly to drivers	
Ensure that OSRs are maintained, are organized, and that Spec Ed documents are filed in the special documentation folder	
Policies and Procedures	
Ensure a transition plan is developed for all students identified with Autism, as well as for students who are 14 years of age or older	
For ASD students be aware that the Ministry of Education's Policy/Program Memorandum No. 140 mandates the incorporation of methods of applied behavioural analysis (ABA) into programs and planning for transitions	
Behaviour Management Plans (OCDSB 722)	
Safety Plans	
OCDSB Third Party Guidelines	

Section 4: Leadership and Community

Procedure for Administering Medication (sec. 4.10.2 of PR 547.SCO)	
Release of Information Procedures (OCDSB 372)	
Policy for Physical Restraints and Time Out Rooms (PR.626.SE)	
Procedures for Field Trips (PR.518.SCO and PR.571.SCO)	

Working with Educational Assistants

In collaboration with the EAs, review the EA job descriptions and responsibilities at the beginning of the school year and other times as necessary	
Model and foster a respectful professional relationship based on a team approach which maximizes the skills of each EA	
Provide the EAs with clear expectations and regular feedback regarding their work with students and the implementation of programs including a plan to have 'fading' support in order to increase students' independence	
Ensure that EAs have access to information pertaining to students' academic and behavioural background (i.e. IEP, Reports)	
Coordinate schedules and assignments for EAs (student supervision and integration)	
Include EAs in planning and implementing transition plans for students requiring them	
Encourage the EAs to assist students in self advocacy as they integrate into the regular classroom	
Ensure regular communication with EAs so that all members of the team are working towards IEP expectations for students, using a consistent approach in all areas	
Understand that the teacher is ultimately accountable for the program	

Fostering Community Understanding

Educate students and staff regarding the varying needs of students – this could be in the form of an information session to staff and/or students (i.e. staff meetings, PD day activities, school council meetings, assemblies, share information electronically)	
Share relevant information with staff proactively so that they recognize and can deal effectively with students having difficulty following instructions or directions outside of the classroom	
Inform all staff of the emergency protocols (e.g. Behaviour Management Plans, Safety Procedures, seizure procedures, allergic reaction procedures, emergency signs for communicating with D/HH students, etc.)	
Provide behaviour management information to drivers, and communicate regularly with the driver to ensure safety	

Use teaching expertise as an in-school resource for other staff (i.e., providing input during special education meetings regarding behavioural strategies, program modifications and accommodations, etc.)	
Allow for outside community members to volunteer to present to/mentor/work with students for program enrichment	
Collaborate with and support parents to help them understand their child's strengths, needs and educational program	
Involve students in whole school initiatives (e.g., assemblies, student led conferences, school improvement plans, heritage festivals, Author's Day, special events, etc.,)	
Foster a consistent approach between home and school	



Quality Program Indicators

Promoting the consistent delivery of quality special education programs and services across the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

