

# Special Education & Ward 10

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# This Evening:

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- About Us
  - Issues in Special Education
  - Accessing the System
  - Questions & Answers
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# About Us: Special Education Department

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- ❑ 57 Central Staff in 4 quadrants
  - ❑ Approx 4600 teachers and support staff in schools and the field
  - ❑ 36,800 students receiving support
  - ❑ Increases in students on IEPs but not identified as exceptional (25% over 5 years)
  - ❑ Increases in students with autism and learning disabilities
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# About Us: Goals/objectives

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- ❑ Support students in well resourced local schools
  - ❑ Direct service to schools\classrooms
  - ❑ Build capacity of central/school staff
  - ❑ Develop consistency of practices/procedures across TDSB
  - ❑ Manage & use data for decision making
  - ❑ Support pillars of BIP & TDSB priorities
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# Issues in Special Education

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- ❑ Increased Demands; Decreased Funding
  - ❑ Increases in students with complex needs
  - ❑ Increases in students with needs that receive limited funding – mental health & medical issues
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# Issues in Special Education

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- ❑ Need for extensive professional learning/training
  - ❑ Inclusion vs. Intensive Support
  - ❑ New legislation: Bill 157 and 168
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# Accessing the System

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As parents & educators, the priority is to look after the whole child.

We need to work in a partnership with each other to set the bar high and to maximize student success.

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# Accessing the System

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- Establish open, honest communication
  - Establish external networks
  - Gain as much knowledge as you can about rights, the system, resources
  - Make suggestions; give feedback
  - Use TDSB central support staff
  - Recognize that everyone is doing what they believe is best for your child
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Thank you for your attention

Any questions?

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