



Parents and caregivers:
Are you looking for another way that you can make a difference in the educational needs of children with cancer?

Then consider applying to join your local school board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)!

What is a SEAC?

- A SEAC is a committee of a school board or a school authority that provides important advice on special education
- A SEAC may make recommendations to the board on any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students in a board
- SEACs meet monthly from September to June

Who can join a SEAC?

- A SEAC is comprised of volunteer trustees and representatives of local associations that further the interests and well-being of groups of exceptional children or adults (*as a member of OPACC, you would qualify as a representative of a local association*)
- SEAC members must be Canadian citizens, have voting rights, be qualified to vote for members of the board, and must be a resident in the board's jurisdiction
- If applying to join a Catholic board, the candidate must be Catholic

Why should you consider joining a SEAC?

- To represent students with cancer on behalf of OPACC
- To forge relationships with key personnel at the school board level
- To be provided with the opportunity to participate in the annual review of the board's Special Education Plan
- To participate in the board's annual budget process as it relates to special education
- To attain knowledge on Individual Education Plans, Identification Placement Review Committee processes, and educational resources available to students with exceptionalities (i.e. Educational Assistants, technology (laptops, iPads), and adaptive programming)
- To work for the support and understanding needed when a student is diagnosed with cancer

How can you apply to join a SEAC?

- The application process varies from board to board
- Applications are mostly considered at the start of each new school year, however if spots become available afterwards, candidates may be able to join partway through the year
- Contact your school board office for more information about the application process.
- For more information on SEACs in general, you can also visit the Ontario Ministry of Education website: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac>