EQUIPMENT

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION (SEA)

The Special Equipment Allocation (SEA) provides funding to school boards to assist with the costs of equipment essential to support students with special education needs where the need for specific equipment is recommended by a qualified professional. This equipment is to provide students with accommodations that are essential to access the Ontario curriculum and/or a Board-determined alternative program and/or course and/or to attend school.

The purchasing of equipment reflects cost effective choices appropriateness of equipment based on the individual needs of the student. The Board strives to ensure that students (where appropriate), teachers and Board staff who work with the student have received training in order to best use the equipment. Training is provided through contracting for individual and group student training, continuous in-servicing and support by Assessment and Programming/Programming and Assessment Teachers, Assistive Technology Teachers, Speech-Language Pathologists, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Teachers, and Audiologist.

Specific students who have supportive documentation are provided with the equipment. Supportive documentation involves a current, comprehensive, detailed assessment(s) completed by a relevant professional(s), who is qualified to make recommendations based on student's needs. The assessment report indicates significant, relevant deficit(s) that are clearly impacting learning and that can only be accommodated by the use of specialized equipment. A diagnosis of the condition the equipment is meant to address is clearly stated and functional recommendation(s) regarding the specific types of equipment clearly links student's needs to recommended equipment.

Also, the student's IEP documents the use of the equipment.

Principals, with assistance from the School Based Support Learning Team (SBSLT), are responsible for identifying students that may require specialized equipment, as identified in a report by a qualified professional, and determining whether the student's needs are beyond the current availability of equipment that the school is able to provide, whether the recommended equipment is for purposes of by-passing or compensating for student's learning difficulties, whether the recommended equipment is academically appropriate, and whether there is evidence that remediation/intervention and/or low/no tech device(s) were found to be insufficient to address the student's needs. The principal prepares a Specialized Equipment Allocation request package that complies with the ministry guidelines.

Equipment orders through Special Equipment Allocation are based on a Ministry funding formula. The TCDSB budget allocation and claims process for the 2026-2027 academic year is guided by the Ministry of Education document, 2026-2027 Special Education Fund, Guide to the 2026–2027 Special Education Fund | ontario.ca