STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is committed to ongoing professional learning to inform the practice of our educators to support the success and well-being of students with special education needs.

The Board allocates funding annually to support the professional development of teachers, educational assistants, administrators, and other staff involved in the delivery of special education programs and services. These resources support training in evidence-informed instructional practices, inclusive education, mental health and well-being, assistive technology, behavioural supports, accessibility, and Ministry of Education initiatives.

Funding for staff development is provided through the Board's annual operating budget and Special Education budget and is used to ensure that staff have the knowledge, and skills required to meet the diverse learning needs of students and to support continuous improvement in student achievement and well-being. After each professional development session, staff provide feedback through an exit survey to inform future professional development. Updates on professional development activities are provided regularly to SEAC through the Superintendent Update agenda item at the monthly meetings.

Both system needs and Ministry priorities inform staff development topics. Special Services staff are available to support the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP), provide workshops for new school administrators at the annual Head Start meetings, and support local school needs through consultation.

Notice of staff development sessions are provided directly to targeted staff and school principals through special services communications. During the 2025-2026 school year, the Ministry of Education has provided funding to subsidize course fees for teachers engaging in the special education additional qualifications courses. Messaging has been shared with teachers by the Special Services Department.

The TCDSB Special Education Plan is available on the board website and can be readily accessed by all stakeholders. Stakeholders are provided with the link to the plan twice a year.

Initiative Title	Description of Initiative	Target Audience	Communication to Audience
RISE – Implementation Training	Training on the new Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Case Management System	Panel: Secondary Special Education Department Heads and Panel: Elementary Special Education Teachers	Email Invitation
Corrective Reading	Reading Intervention	Panel: Elementary Special Education Teachers Panel: Secondary Special Education Department Head	Email Invitation
Empower	Training newly assigned teachers for Empower	Panel: Elementary Special Education Teachers	Email Invitation
Empower	Training – Refresher	Panel: Elementary Special Education Teachers	Email Invitation
Universal Design for Learning (UDL)/Differentiated Instruction (DI)	Introduction on the core ideas of UDL and DI while exploring how to understand learners, design effective classrooms, communicate clearly, and plan strong lessons for students. Practical strategies to assess, monitor, and adjust instruction to succeed.	Panel: Elementary & Secondary Deaf and Hard of Hearing Itinerant Teachers Panel: Elementary & Autism Support Itinerant Teachers Panel: Elementary Autism Intensive Support Program Teachers Panel: Elementary Behaviour Intensive Support Program Teachers Panel: Elementary Gifted Teachers (Congregated/ Withdrawal) Panel: Elementary Language Impairment Intensive Support Program Teachers	Email Invitation

		Panel: Elementary Learning Disability Intensive Support Program Teachers Panel: Elementary Mild Intellectual Disability Intensive Support Program Teachers Panel: Elementary & Secondary Multiple Exceptionality/ Developmental Disability Intensive Support Program Teachers Panel: Elementary & Secondary Special Education Teachers	
Universal Design for Learning (UDL)/Differentiated Instruction (DI)	Supporting Learners in Early Years and Beyond	Panel: Elementary Kindergarten Teachers	Email Invitation
Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) Training	De-escalation strategies	Panel: Elementary and Secondary Support Staff	Email Invitation
Geneva Centre for Autism Courses Funded by the Ministry of Education	Supporting Students with Autism	Panel: Elementary and Secondary	Email Invitation