



SEAC SOUNDBYTES

Raising awareness of the Special Education process at HCDSB

January 2016

What is an EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT?

Every student requires support from teachers, classmates, family, and friends in order to be successful and thrive and to fully benefit from their school experience. **Some students have special needs that require supports beyond those ordinarily received in the school setting.** These students may be formally identified as exceptional students and often require teaching interventions that may differ from their classmates.

The Ministry of Education sets out definitions of exceptionalities that must be used by school boards to determine if a child meets the definition of an exceptional student. There are a number of different categories of exceptionalities:

- **Behaviour**
 - Specific behaviour problems over a period of time and to a marked degree
- **Communication**
 - Autism
 - Learning Disability
 - Language Impairment
 - Speech Impairment
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- **Intellectual**
 - Gifted
 - Mild Intellectual Disability
 - Developmental Disability
- **Physical**
 - Physical Disability
 - Blind and Low Vision
- **Multiple Exceptionalities**
 - A combination of learning or other disorders, impairments or physical disabilities

For more information please visit: www.hcdsb.org/Programs/SpecialEducation/Pages/default.aspx and be sure to check in with us next month to learn how “IEP”s are used to support students with special needs.

Submitted by Brenda Agnew, SEAC Alternate Member, representing Easter Seals Ontario