

1. GENERAL MODEL for SPECIAL EDUCATION

Purpose of the Standard

To provide the ministry and the public with information on the board's philosophy and service-delivery model for the provision of special education programs and services.

Philosophy

The Peel District School Board believes that all children can learn. Within that view, the board has an obligation to ensure that the abilities of all children are acknowledged and respected. Children have the right to the best education available, irrespective of their exceptionalities. The special education plan is designed to comply with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Education Act and regulations made under the act, and any other relevant legislation.

Guiding Principles

Peel supports the concept of the neighbourhood school as the starting point in meeting all student's needs.

Principals play a leading role in setting a climate of acceptance for all students.

All students can learn and it is the responsibility of the Board and each school to make that a reality.

Teaching assistants are assigned to schools not to individual students.

Parents and/or students are consulted in the development of Individual Education Plans and establishing goals and expectations.

Given the wide range of educational opportunities, physical environments and wide range of student needs; there is no one way to deliver special education support and there is no one way to address a particular exceptionality.

Peel is committed to the development and implementation of good early identification and intervention programs recognizing the critical role of the regular classroom teacher in the education of all children.

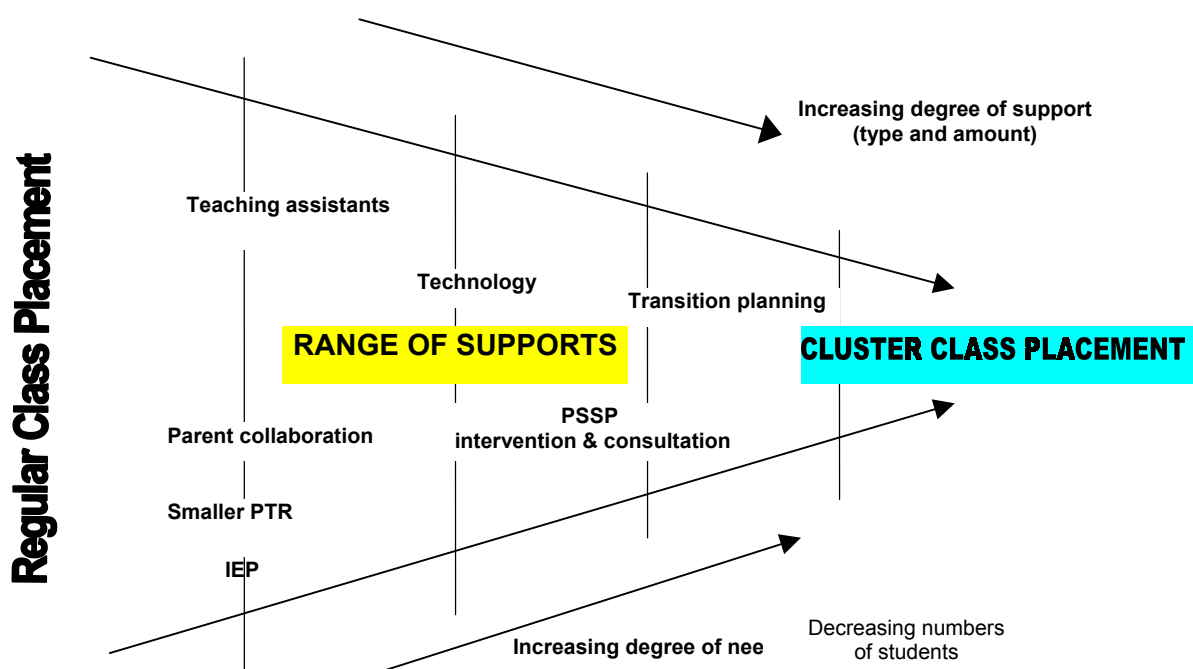
Peel confirms the need for the involvement and commitment of parents, appropriate agencies, and the community at large, in providing quality special education services.

Peel recognizes that the education of all children is the responsibility of all teachers, administrators and support staff. In support of this, it further recognizes the importance of ongoing professional development to address the needs of teachers, administrators and support staff.

The school, the field office and centre are aligned with a common purpose to support all teachers in meeting student needs within available resources.

Service Delivery Model

The Peel District School Board offers a wide range of special education programs and services which are designed to provide the best possible learning opportunities for individual students of varying abilities and needs. Placement options range from support programs for students in regular classroom settings to self contained classes. Integration opportunities are provided in most placements. Although placement in the neighbourhood school in a mainstream class is the first option considered, some students may be best served in a contained class. The following graphic depicts the continuum of service available.



A more detailed description of service delivery programs and placements is included in the section of the plan **Special Education Placements** provided by the board.