

SECTION C-7

**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT**

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The overall goal of the Special Education Staff Development Plan.

The overall goal of the Special Education Development Plan continues to be to provide all staff with up to date information regarding the latest research and subsequent changes in methodology, Ministry directives, and policy changes.

The following 2017-2018 Special Education Professional Activities offered this year to Educational Assistants and Special Education Teachers:

**A List of Professional Development Related to Special Education
from September 2017 to June 2018**

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board

Date	Participants	Details of Professional Development
September 7, 2017	New SERTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinators provided an overview of the roles, responsibilities and duties of the Special Education Resource Teacher • Highlights included SERT resources folder on Google Drive, Success by Six, IEPs, CLEVR, assistive technology, and SE consent and referral forms
September 12, 2017	All SERTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overview of The Role of the SERT • Functional Behaviour Analysis, Data Collection, and Structured Teaching (ASD Specialist, Jennifer Reid-Hudson) • an overview of Special Education Services for the 2017-18 school year, including psychological, behavioural, speech and language, and SEA services)
October 5, 2017	New SEA Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gap training for Educational Assistants and SERTs new to the SEA Trainer role • each new SEA trainer was connected to a mentor SEA trainer who provides consultation and support ongoingly throughout the school year • skills explicitly taught and practised included GAFE via the Chromebook platform, File Systems for Windows, Google Read and Write, Mindomo, Typing Club, the iPad platform, Readdle, Readiris, PDF Markup, iWordQ, and various apps for students with ASD
October 24-25, 2017	Superintendent of Special Education, Principal of Special Education, Coordinators of Special Education, ASD Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attended the 43rd annual 'Meeting the Needs' conference • guest speakers included Nancy Hall, a Neurobehavioral Specialist in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Marian Small, author and Dean of Education at the University of New Brunswick who presented about teacher questioning to solicit important Math talk
November 7, 2017	Elementary and Secondary SERTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing Awareness Workshop • Cathy Ruggirello, Ministry of Education • SERTs participated in hearing differences simulations • SERTs learned how to effectively 'read' audiogram reports

November 17, 2017	Elementary and Secondary EAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA staff participated in a full day of learning which included a one-hour session (keynote speaker) titled <i>Building Resilience, Understanding Challenges, Learning Strategies, and the Acceptance of Change</i>; participants were introduced to a variety of effective, practical tools to improve physical health, respect mental/emotional health, and cultivate a strong social support network EA staff then chose three workshops from the following list of workshops, based on their preference and current assignments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An Overview of Zones of Regulation High Tech ABC Data Collection Supporting Students Using Chromebooks Supporting Students Using iPads An Overview of Google Apps for Education (GAPE) Strategies for Supporting Indigenous Students Digging Deeper into BMS (RCCDSB Case Studies) Self Regulation- Strategies for Students Who Struggle with “Calm” Frameworks and Strategies to Support the Growth of Independence
December 7, 2018	SERTs involved in SERT Effective Practices Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinators and SERTs delved deeper into the research by Jennifer Katz on the changing role of resource teachers in universal design for learning
January 9, 2018 <i>(Renfrew and Arnprior schools)</i> January 23, 2018 <i>(Pembroke, Petawawa, and Madawaska schools)</i>	Newly hired EA staff and all Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gap BMS Training (Behaviour Management Systems Training) this course provides training and support systems for identifying the risk and protective factors in a student’s life, and emphasizes prevention by recognizing early warning signs of escalation participants learn calming/de-escalation techniques, as well as safety techniques to use in the rare instances that it may be required BMS is a full day of training (7 hours), and participants who complete the required hours will receive certification in BMS
February 2, 2018	Elementary and Secondary EAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> this day of professional activity focused on wellness through an Indigenous lens the day began and ended with Indigenous storyteller, Daniel Richer; Daniel gave two different presentations titled <i>“The Dream Catcher and the Wolf”</i> and <i>“Seven Tales for Seven Teachings”</i> the day also included two break-out sessions (1 hour each)- one with RCCDSB Mental Health and

		Wellness lead, Rebecca Paulsen, and another that focused on calmness through Indigenous art
February 28, 2018	SERTs involved in SERT Effective Practices Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SERTs updated the parent IEP brochure • SERTs worked collaboratively with curriculum SPAT to revise the Kindergarten parent questionnaire (used at registration)
April 17, 2018	Principals and Vice Principals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinators of Special Education provided principals and vice principals with an overview of BMS philosophy and strategies to support positive student behaviours
May 22, 2018	BMS Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMS trainers for the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board were recertified as trainers by Master BMS Trainer Brian Ellerker
June 5, 2018	SERTs involved in SERT Effective Practices Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review and revise the Individual High Needs Safety Plan • brainstorm the components necessary for a Behaviour Plan • continue digging deeply into Jennifer Katz' work/book (Chapters 4-8)
Ongoing throughout 2017-18 School Year	Coordinator of Special Education, Coordinator of Literacy and Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Special Education "lens" is an important component of the EOSDN Math project • inquiry question with collaboration from 2 schools • hands-on sessions with Connie Quadrini (Provincial Math Lead) in order to further understand the profile of a student with a Learning Disability and how to leverage their strengths and accommodate for their needs • "digging deep" into the development of Mathematical Models in the Primary and Junior Grades with Heather Wark (Department of Education, Lakehead University)
Ongoing throughout the 2017-18 School Year	Coordinator of Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation in the EOSDN Thinking Symposium • focus this year has been on co-constructing success criteria with students to help ensure learning, behavioural, classroom, etc. expectations are clearly articulated • Thinking Symposium learning facilitated by Sandra Herbst, CEO of connect2learning