

## **Special Education and Inclusion: 2022-2023 Annual Report Home School Program (HSP)**

As part of our commitment to Special Education and Inclusion in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, we continue to explore ways to promote greater inclusion for all students, particularly students with special education needs.

Over the past number of years, the TDSB has been transforming our Special Education structures to ensure students are supported in the most appropriate, inclusive learning environment possible. Beginning in 2017, the TDSB began to phase out placement of students in a Home School Program (HSP). The HSP focused on withdrawal of students to self-contained settings within the home school for 50% of the school day. In the 2021-2022 school year, we completely phased out HSP placements in all grades.

As part of this transition, the TDSB reviewed the HSP model of support and moved toward supporting students with special education needs through an inclusionary model of Resource support beginning in the 2017-2018 school year by initially phasing out primary grade placements in HSP and then encompassing all junior and intermediate grade placements by 2021-2022.

Since the phasing out of the HSP, the Leadership, Learning & School Improvement team has been providing on-going professional learning and job-embedded support to classroom teachers and support staff. This includes mentorship and coaching in schools as well as learning opportunities focusing on specific profiles of learners, different divisions (junior/intermediate/secondary) as well as more general sessions on Universal Design for Learning, Differentiated Instruction and Applied Behaviour Analysis.

Through this process of phasing out HSP we understand that inclusion is not just about keeping students in the regular classroom. It is about meeting the needs of all students in a class. Collaboration between regular classroom teachers and special education staff is critical to finding the most effective ways to meet the needs of every student. Providing students with special education needs with the instructional support and services they need within the regular program in neighbourhood schools, will improve achievement and well-being for all students.

[Inclusion in the TDSB Facts Sheet June 2017.pdf](#)