

The Purpose of SEA Funding

The Special Equipment Amount (SEA) provides funding to school boards to assist with the costs of equipment essential to support students with special education needs where the need for specific equipment is recommended by a qualified professional. This equipment is to provide students with accommodations that are directly required and essential to access the Ontario curriculum and/or a board determined alternative program and/or course and/or to attend school.

SEA Ministry Guidelines, 2016-17

HCDSB & SEA

HCDSB board staff members work collaboratively with students, parents and community professionals to review recommendations and provide students, in a timely manner, with the physical equipment, assistive technology and appropriate training they require to access the curriculum within the HCDSB infrastructure.

A student's needs may be addressed with equipment already available. Board staff make final decision regarding allocations. This process ensures funding is utilized responsibly to meet the needs of all students.



Special Equipment Amount (SEA)

The Halton Catholic District School Board, in partnership with home and Church, is dedicated to providing excellence in Catholic education by developing Christ-centred individuals enabled to transform society.

Two Types of SEA Claims

SEA Claims-Based Amount

This component will cover expenditures for non-computer related equipment to be utilized by students with special education needs such as:

- ❖ Personal care support equipment
- ❖ Physical assists support equipment
- ❖ Sensory equipment
- ❖ Hearing support equipment
- ❖ Vision support equipment

SEA Per Pupil Amount

This component supports the purchase of all technology-based equipment. This includes items such as:

- ❖ Technology devices (ie. laptops)
- ❖ Software and applications
- ❖ Training
- ❖ Technician costs

Ministry and SEA Expectations

Parent Notification

Parents must receive notification that a SEA Claim is being filed for a student prior to submission of the claim

IEP

The student's IEP must indicate the SEA equipment purchased and how the student uses the equipment in their learning.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can SEA Claims be renewed?

Equipment will be replaced or upgraded as needed to accommodate changes in student needs, changing technology, and/or to better meet the students' strengths and needs as documented in the current IEP. The expected number of years for use of different types of equipment varies according to the equipment.

What are the HCDSB responsibilities regarding SEA equipment?

SEA Equipment is HCDSB board property. All boards are responsible for developing internal operating policies and procedures regarding the purchase, repair, use and disposal of SEA Equipment. Efforts are made to share equipment amongst students, where appropriate.

What happens when a student changes schools or boards?

- ❖ If a student moves to another school or board, there are procedures in place to facilitate the transfer of equipment between schools or from board to board.
- ❖ The board receiving the equipment is responsible for requesting the equipment and any shipping costs associated with the transfer
- ❖ Equipment is only transferable to publicly funded schools
- ❖ SEA equipment does not transfer to post-secondary institutions

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can write a prescription or recommendation for SEA Equipment?

Any qualified professional who recommends equipment that is eligible for SEA funding

- ❖ Psychologist
- ❖ Physician
- ❖ Audiologist
- ❖ Speech Language Pathologist
- ❖ Physiotherapist
- ❖ Occupational Therapist
- ❖ Optometrist/Ophthalmologist

Can SEA Equipment be shared amongst students?

Yes, as appropriate. IT equipment may be stored centrally and students may access a variety of equipment to support their learning.

Can SEA equipment be used over the summer?

Over the summer, SEA equipment is maintained and updated in preparation for the following school year.

What happens to SEA equipment purchased for a student when he/she transitions to secondary?

Personal support equipment, sensory equipment, hearing support equipment and vision equipment are transferred to the student's secondary school. AT equipment, configured to work in the secondary school, will be available to students upon the transition.