

News Release

Board of Education calls on Saskatchewan Government to have “funding follow student”

For immediate release: January 14, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.

At the Board of Education meeting this evening (January 14), a report will be presented ([item 6.3](#)) regarding a significant increase in the number of students requiring intensive supports and what is required to support these students in classrooms.

In the last 10 years, there have been close to 800 new students requiring intensive supports in SPS K-12 classrooms. Each of these students has unique and complex needs. Many students meet criteria in more than one category, with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Intellectual Developmental Disorder (IDD) representing the most rapidly increasing areas.

In Saskatoon Public Schools, special education consultants collaborate with school teams to determine students’ need for intensive support. A plan is then developed for these students, identifying the supports they require. These plans can include placement in special programs, personal care (e.g. eating, bathrooming), learning supports (e.g. educational assistant, assistive technology), and other supports such as counselling, occupational therapy, speech and language assistance and nursing care.

Saskatoon Public Schools is committed to ensuring every student has access to meaningful and supportive educational opportunities. However, the pressure of meeting rapidly growing need has reached critical mass. While student complexity continues to increase at unprecedented rates, the funding has not kept up.

The majority of funding that school divisions receive is based on student enrolment and does not reflect the number of students with intensive needs. The result is that school divisions are allocating more and more funding to intensive supports, leaving less for everything else.

The Saskatoon Board of Education has been calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to adequately fund educational opportunities for each student without compromising the quality of overall education. We are asking that ***funding follow students that require***

intensive supports. Doing so would ensure needs are met for every Saskatchewan student. Failing to do so will undermine the quality of education for all.

The board meeting gets underway at 6:30 p.m. today (January 14). The presentation on *item 6.3 – Ministry Special Education Data Review* is expected at approximately 7:15 p.m. or shortly thereafter. Members of the media and general public are welcome to attend the meeting in person at the downtown Board of Education office – please use the building entrance off 3rd Ave S. The meeting will also be live streamed via Microsoft Teams – you can [access the link here](#).

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Media Contact:

Colleen Cameron

CameronC@spsd.sk.ca