

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL SPECIAL NEEDS PARITY COMMITTEE (CSNPC) YEAR-END-REPORT (JUNE 2026)

Central Budget

As of mid-May, a total approximate amount of \$18 million was spent on Special Education Technician and Integration Aide allocations from the central committee budget. As is now the regular practice, the funds were fully allocated to the schools at the start of the academic year.

Distribution of Services Plans – Fall and Winter 2025-2026

As part of its regular practice, the committee reviews distribution of services (DoS) plans submitted by schools each fall. This year, four schools rejected their plans and asked the CSNPC to decide which plan to implement. This led to lengthy, comprehensive and occasionally frustrating conversations with the school board about the reasons behind each school's rejection. Although rejecting a DoS does not lead to additional services being allocated, and the committee invariably recommends the second DoS for application, these discussions are nevertheless important to stress to the school board how teachers feel regarding support services and the significant gaps that exist in providing the desired support to students.

Provincial Agreement Allocations 2023-2028 and MEQ Budgetary Rules

The provincial agreement includes several appendices with funding for special needs groupings. The committee has now established a regular procedure for allocating resources, particularly ones that impact teacher staffing.

The work of the committee was carried out this year despite the budgetary cuts announced by the MEQ over the summer of 2025, and the subsequent strain this created on the education network. The same total budget was allocated to schools, and cuts were sought elsewhere in the school board budget. Comprehensive reviews of the various budgetary lines were done at practically every meeting, although a noticeable delay in receiving data-based information was noted this year in committee.

A continued concern is that the annual indexation of certain budgetary rules is less than the salary increases achieved by the public sector in the last round of negotiations. We regularly share feedback with our provincial counterparts regarding the impacts of this issue.

Despite all this, we were still able to allocate eleven additional classes at the elementary level, five at the secondary level and ten specialized groupings in the Youth Sector for 2025-2026.

The committee also began work with the budgetary rules for 2026-2027 to review these allocations again, as the draft rules were made available in April. We met and discussed outside of committee several times to make recommendations for allocations for 2026-2027. Although we agree on a recommendation for the distribution of additional groups, the school board and PTU failed to reach consensus on the allocation of the specialized groupings, particularly for the three REACH groups. Discussions will continue through May and June regarding these allocations.

Main Topics of Discussion for 2025-2026

- The role of this parity committee, as well as the role of the school-level Special Needs Committee
- Review of school-level Distribution of Services plans
- The role of the Resource teacher
- The Reference Guide for Resource Teachers
- Replacement of support staff when absent
- IEP Review and Validation
- IEP release days and other budgetary allocations
- Special projects for K4/K5 groups
- Retroactive application of oversize compensation due to updates in coding
- Information on the Youth Sector Special Needs pedagogical day in February
- The Grade 6 Articulation Process
- LBPSB procedures on protecting confidentiality
- Concerns from particular schools were discussed regularly

School Visits

We were able to visit Christmas Park Elementary / REACH West during one of our committee meetings. These on-site visits are so important to help see and evaluate the impacts of some of our committee decisions. The committee looks forward to continuing to visit schools again in 2026-2027.

Submitted by
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