

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Minister

Ministre

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March 17, 2008

Ms. Heidi Bernhardt  
National Director  
Centre for ADD/ADHD Advocacy, Canada  
Suite 304B  
40 Wynford Drive  
Toronto ON M3C 1J5

Dear Ms. Bernhardt,

Thank you for your email message about the provision of special education services to students with ADHD. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I share your concern of ensuring that students with ADHD special needs receive adequate programs and services, and I believe that the *Education Act* in its current form allows us to reach every student. Five categories of exceptionalities have been identified in the *Education Act* definition of an exceptional pupil: behaviour, communication, intellectual, physical, and multiple. These broad categories include definitions that allow school boards to satisfy the education needs of all students through the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).


Although ADHD is not among specific ministry definitions of exceptionality, it should not be viewed as a barrier to students with ADHD being identified as exceptional. The determining factor is whether a student is in need of a special education program or service. Once a student is identified, the IPRC can apply the ministry definition(s) that most closely match the student's special education needs.

The Individual Education Plan (IEP) that must be prepared for every exceptional student is a key component of the student's success in school. The IEP outlines the student's accommodations, modifications, and alternate expectations. It is through the development of the IEP that school staff will consult and consider the diversity of needs and teaching strategies available to each student.

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Please be assured that I share your concerns about the challenges facing families who have children with special needs. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Wynne". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kathleen Wynne  
Minister of Education