

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	February 5, 2026
TO:	Elementary Principals and Vice Principals
FROM:	Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Special Education, Inclusion & Equity John Manzin, System Principal, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity, Transition Navigation
SUBJECT:	In Person Entry to School Information Sessions for students requiring special education supports and services – September 2026

As part of HWDSB's commitment to every student experiencing a sense of belonging, equity, collaboration and wellbeing, the Entry to School process for students who may require special education services is grounded in our Strategic Directions and our Board Improvement Plan.

This work reflects our system's focus on removing barriers, increasing access to early and ongoing supports, and ensuring that every learner experiences a safe, welcoming, and responsive transition into school.

A strong Entry to School process is essential for supporting student well-being, early learning readiness, and long-term success. Smooth transitions help children feel secure, confident, and connected as they enter Kindergarten.

This is particularly important for students with extensive or unique learning needs. When families are engaged early and meaningfully, they become empowered partners, strengthening the home–school connection that is central to student achievement and wellness. Early collaboration among families, community partners, and school teams ensures that important information is shared, supports are in place, and planning is proactive.

This aligned, system-wide approach reinforces our collective responsibility to create inclusive environments where every child can thrive and experience joy from their very first day of school.

Attached please find a flyer to be shared with families who may have inquired at your building about their new to kindergarten child for September 2026, who may be requiring Special Education supports or services.

HWDSB will be hosting an in-person information session on **February 19th 6:30-8:00pm at the Education Centre**. We are offering free child minding for those families who may need this service.

This is intended for those families who may not have been able to attend the virtual session that was held on January 27th.

HWDSB

ENTRY TO SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT

For families of HWDSB children entering Kindergarten
who may require Special Education services. ★

HWDSB is excited to welcome your child to school in September 2026! We know this is a big step and you likely have questions. Please join us in-person on February 19 at HWDSB's Education Centre to learn about HWDSB's Special Education team and the support services available for your child.



**February 19, 2026
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Education Centre, 20 Education Court,
Lower Level - Room 180 (A, B, C, D, E)**

**To register for free child minding, scan the
QR code or visit:
hwdsb.info/in-person-school-entry-reg**



Registration Closes February 17, 2026

Questions? Please e-mail entrytoschool@hwdsb.on.ca
or to learn more, visit: hwdsb.info/special-ed or
hwdsb.info/2026-entry-to-school