
From: Brenda J LaPierre [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Typical Grade 2 Classroom

This is my classroom composition: 21 students who ALL try their best. I want them each to get the education that they deserve. In the present conditions, they cannot. Students who have the ability and disposition to be able to progress normally cannot. One teacher trying to meet all of the needs results in moving along with the curriculum slowly, taking much time to try and get all things /students invested and interested. Dealing with unexpected behaviours mean the rest of the 6 and 7 year olds are waiting for the issues to be resolved instead of moving on and learning new things.

Student 1- IPP. Doesn't know alphabet yet (This is grade 2)

Student 2 -Knows MOST of alphabet. Behaviour problems. Vice Principal has to coax student in every morning. Student then arrives to class, needs one-on-one attention most of day. Has social issues and trouble getting along with classmates. Very vocal about troubles. Effects entire class.

Student 3- Diagnosed ADHD, parents decided no medication. Keeps going out of room to avoid activities. Says he/she/ze feels sick most days. Wants me to call home. MOST days.

Student 4- Reads at primary level. Just started meds for ADHD.

Student 5- ASD diagnosis. This child gets NO EA support because he doesn't have huge behavioural issues. Cannot add 2+1 and get correct answer on own.

Student 6- Constantly moving, laying, rolling on floor. Finding paper clips to straighten, cutting things if scissors are not kept out of reach. Help for him? Me. Detention for his inability to keep his hands to himself. ☹
Reading one grade and 1/2 below.

Student 7- Great at math. Reads two grades below. Cannot form letters properly. A Psych assessment has just started for him.

Student 8- Sits on a ball to try and help him focus. Supportive mom came in at first of year to request this. Even with this, the student has major difficulties when trying to do the work. Avoids writing activities. Needs one-on-one help for these.

These are GRADE TWO students. There is one teacher (me) and one EA. Many of the other students have huge issues that impact their own learning, as well as others', because of their difficulties in getting along with others and being able to listen. Many of the others came to me working below grade level.

****The EA usually needs to work outside of the room with students as it distracts those near, and at 6 and 7 years old, they cannot focus on their own thoughts and ideas with an adult talking near them. COULD YOU?**

I WOULD NEED TO BE ABLE TO SCRIBE FOR 6 STUDENTS AT ONCE AS WELL AS STAY NEAR THE 7th TO KEEP HIM FOCUSED ON THE TASK, IN ORDER TO GIVE THE ADAPTATIONS NECESSARY.

Having a group/commission ready to talk about and hear my concern about this classroom composition AFTER I take time to describe it, and submit it DOES NOT seem to be a solution. A solution would require much more than this. It would require more teachers, more program support (on WORK TO RULE, I actually HAD more help from my program support teacher because she wasn't on tienet).

I have been teaching 20 years. I enjoy teaching. I do my best. I THOUGHT this would be a chance to help my students. I sincerely hope the end results in just that. Parents who have students "ready and able to learn" would want their students able to move at a good pace. Parents who have children with needs that require a different pace want that for their children. One teacher cannot move at all paces at the same time. Please, please, stop talking about what to do and spend the money on doing something.

Sent from my iPad