

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MEMORANDUM

2013-2014: 244R

TO: Elementary Principals
Secondary Principals

FROM: Chris Samis
Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: **THE ZIGGURAT MODEL: TWO DAY SUMMER TRAINING COURSE**

The Ziggurat Model: Planning Comprehensive Behavioral Interventions for Individuals

The Simcoe Path Multi-Year Plan, as well as the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being (BIPSA-WB), states that supporting all students, including those with special education needs (SENs), is essential in improving academic achievement, reducing gaps and increasing public confidence.

Developing innovative and intentional instructional practices is a very important aspect of establishing high expectations and improving the educational outcomes for students with SENs. Consistent with those goals, Dr. Barry Grossman and Dr. Ruth Aspy's book, *The Ziggurat Model*, outlines strategies to support increased achievement for students with autism at school. The Ziggurat Model has been adopted as a model for support throughout many parts of the United States and Canada. The Ziggurat Model is a guide for designing comprehensive behavior interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and is based on a five tiered system. Each tier represents an area that must be addressed in order for an intervention plan to be comprehensive. The premise of the Ziggurat Model is that underlying needs and characteristics related to the autism spectrum disorder must be addressed and uses two assessment tools to facilitate this process.

The Ziggurat Model is consistent with the requirements of the Policy and Program Memorandum 140 (PPM 140) and provides valuable information for Individual Education Plan (IEP) development while implementing a timely and tiered intervention approach.

Professional Development Opportunity

Starting in September 2009, all schools in SCDSB have had a school team trained in the Ziggurat Model.

In order to increase system-wide professional capacity, the SCDSB is offering a summer training session, for individuals interested in learning more about the Ziggurat Model and its application. The training is **two days** in length and participants **must attend both days** of the professional development session. The Ziggurat Model session is open to all teachers, EA's, (supply and contract) and administrators.

Registration can be completed on the staff website using the registration utility at <http://staff.scdsb.on.ca>.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	MAXIMUM
July 2 and July 3, 2014	Oakley Park P.S. - Library	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	35

If you have any questions, please contact Hailey McLean, Central Program Consultant in Special Education at (705) 734-6363 ext: 11801 or hmclean@scdsb.on.ca.

May 2, 2014