

James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board

2026 – 2027 Professional Development Day Plan

Date: Friday, October 2, 2026

Length: Full Day

Topic 1: Student Achievement Planning & Well-being, Special Education

Entity Hosting: School board

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School administrators and board staff

Description:

An aligned system (both panel) PA Day focused on planning and teaching based on student needs, student engagement, and well-being. Content includes understanding components of IEPs, strengthening educator understanding of developing clear and measurable annual learning goals and expectations to support assessment and evaluation, reviewing accommodations, teaching strategies, and assessment methods, and enhancing communication and consultation with families. Specifically:

- Understanding the standards and required components of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), including student strengths and needs, accommodations, modifications and/or alternative expectations, instructional strategies, and methods for reviewing student progress.
- Using student achievement data to inform planning. A special focus on the data available through EQAO to deepen educator knowledge of student learning strengths and needs.
- Strengthening educator understanding of how to develop clear and measurable annual learning goals and learning expectations to support the assessment and evaluation of student progress.
- Reviewing how to develop, implement, update and monitor IEPs in classroom practice, including accommodations, teaching strategies, and assessment methods.
- Enhancement of methods to communicate and consult families regarding special education programs and services in the development and review of IEPs
- Improving understanding of the role of educators on an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), including decision-making documentation of student strengths and needs and how to document the reasons for placement decisions, where applicable.