

Chief Commissioner Patricia DeGuire,
Ontario Human Rights Commission
180 Dundas Street West, Suite 900
Toronto ON M7A 2G5

April 22, 2022

Dear Ms. DeGuire,

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) appreciates the opportunity to respond to The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Right to Read public inquiry, released on February 28, 2022.

The [Right to Read inquiry report](#) found that in Ontario, all students, especially students living with reading disabilities such as dyslexia, are not meeting successful outcomes in reading. This concern leaves all students with disabilities at higher risk for significant long-term difficulties.

As you are aware, HWDSB was pleased to be included with eight school boards in Ontario to participate in the inquiry. Staff supported the OHRC who assessed how school boards use scientific evidence-based approaches to meet students' literacy needs. The release of the report, and its recommendations, affirms HWDSB commitment to move toward full access to literacy improvement.

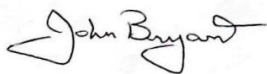
Learning to read is a basic and essential right and a fundamental skill that students must have to succeed in school and in life. As a school board, we have had a clear focus on supporting reading skill development, but we can do better.

On behalf of HWDSB families, students, and staff, we extend our appreciation to the OHRC for your commitment to this public inquiry and for shining a light on the barriers that students face with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system.

Staff are committed to working collaboratively with the Ministry of Education to implement critical changes that are recommended in the Right to Read inquiry report to support literacy and identify and remove barriers to support every student's right to read. Ultimately, we will ensure to provide equitable access to learning that leads to student success in school and beyond.

HWDSB believes that access to education, including learning to read, is a human right for all students, regardless of disability. Staff look forward to implementing the changes to offer great practices for students with reading to support successful outcomes.

Sincerely,



John Bryant
Interim Director of Education

Cc: Dawn Danko, Chair of the Board