

LANGUAGE MODERNIZATION GUIDE

On July 1, 2024, several Ministry of Education and Child Care's Ministerial Orders were amended to include more inclusive language, resulting in language changes to policies, guidelines, and other government documents that provide direction on supports and services for students with disabilities or diverse abilities. These changes reflect basic terminology changes and do not have any intended implications for Orders, Collective Agreements, contracts, policies, guidelines, or the definitions used within these documents.

The following lists former and outdated language and terms, as well as the modernized language that should be used to replace and update them.

Former Language		Modernized Language
student(s) with special needs	→	student(s) with disabilities or diverse abilities
special needs student(s)	→	student(s) with disabilities or diverse abilities
special needs children	→	children with disabilities or diverse abilities
youth with special needs	→	youth with disabilities or diverse abilities
persons with special needs	→	persons with disabilities or diverse abilities
special needs	→	disabilities or diverse abilities
special education(al)	→	inclusive education
special needs funding	→	inclusive education funding
special needs categories	→	inclusive education categories
special needs supports	→	inclusive educational supports