

Luciana Oliveira

**ACCOMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN ACADEMIC
AND INSTITUCIONAL CONTEXTS**



Sunflower Conference 2009

11 - 12 November, Ostrava

Third annual international conference

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Generally in Higher Education, students with disabilities present visual, hearing, speech and/or orthopedic impairments



Students with **severe learning or cognitive** disabilities tend to be retained in lower levels of education.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Educational technologies have been opening up opportunities for students with disabilities to enter Higher Education

They offer:

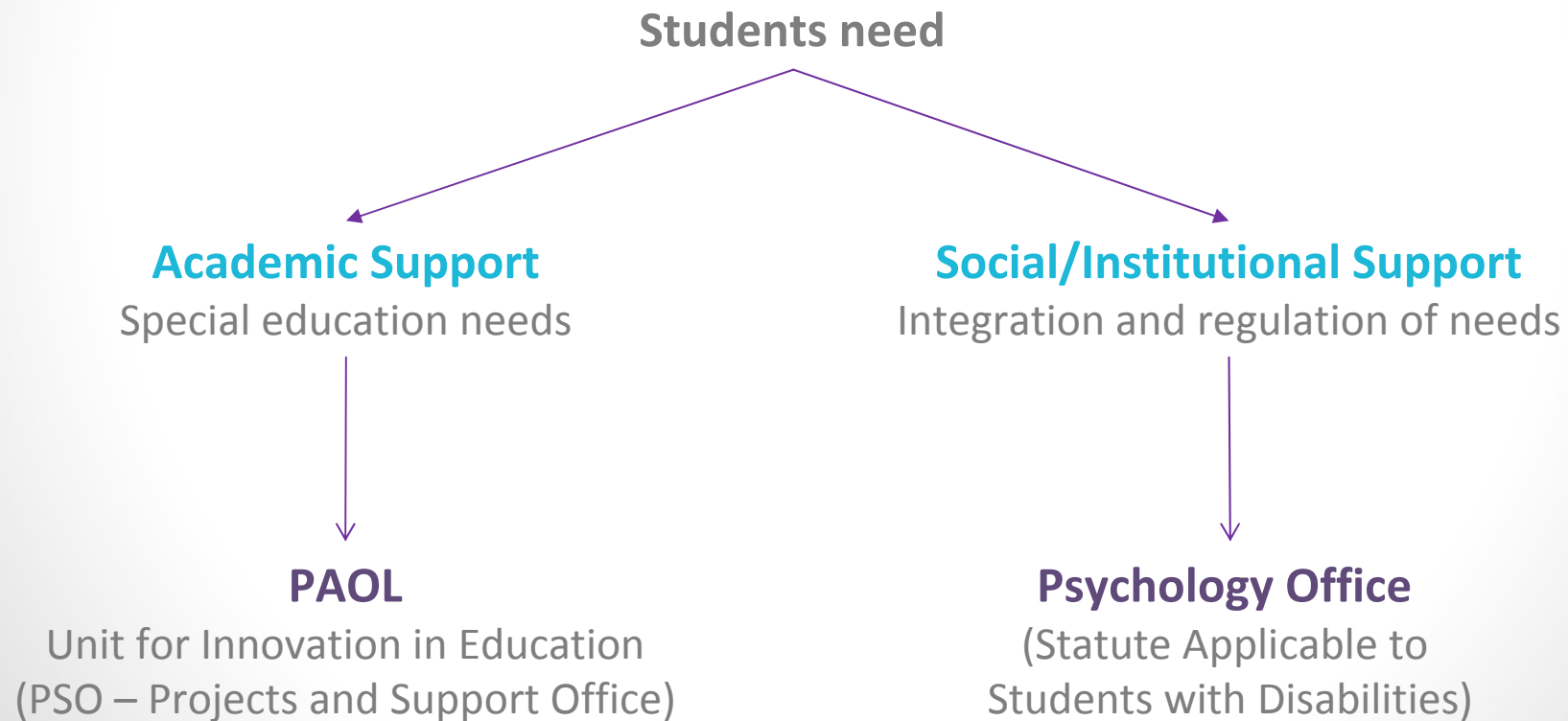
- Larger **access** to course contents;
- Alternative **interaction** means with colleagues and teachers;
- The opportunity to **level up** students with disabilities;
- A possible **reduction** of the preconceived notions **of disabilities** in intra-personal relationships



Educational Technologies alone are not Enough!

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

We believe that it is necessary to develop and articulate several distinct strengths, in order to provide these students with a proper social and academic integration and motivate their success





Aims at providing support to the implementation of computer-assisted teaching and learning

Helping teachers to support students

- Teacher technical training
- Teacher pedagogical training
- Daily support – preparation of contents
- Daily pedagogical consultancy - help in answering to educational problems
- Teacher motivation

- Student technical training
- Daily support – access to contents and completion of learning tasks (guidance)

Supporting students in academic contexts

Psychology Office

- Offers psychological support to students with disabilities
- Analyses students special educational needs
- **Communicates students special needs to the involved teachers and to the**



Analysis Committee

- Composed by members of the School Board, Scientific Board and Pedagogical Board (together with the psychologist);
- **Student's needs are framed in the correspondent course curriculum and in the administrative services**

The Statute Applicable to Students with Disabilities

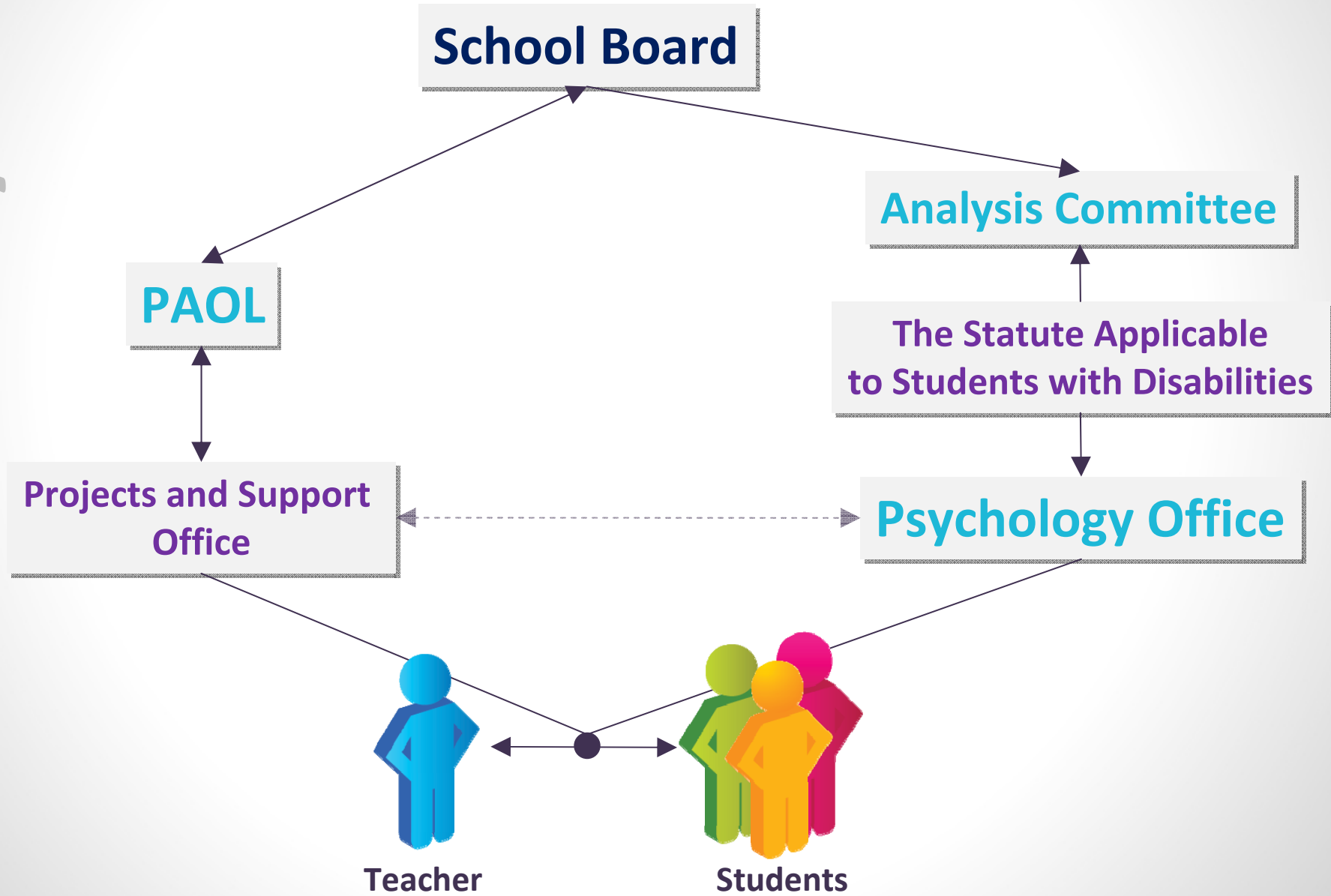
Regulates the measures that the school should implement and offers guidelines that aim to satisfy the needs of students with disabilities.

Examples:

- Adjustments that improve ergonomic conditions of classrooms;
- Adjustments in evaluation instruments (additional time in exams, extended deadlines for class work, etc.);
- Adjustments in course curriculum;

CONCLUSIONS: GLOBAL SUPPORT STRUCTURE

Community





QUESTIONS

Luciana Oliveira | lgo@eu.ipp.pt