

SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN

SECTION 12: Provincial and Demonstration Schools In Ontario

PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS AND DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO

- are operated by the Ministry of Education;
- provide education for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, who are blind or have low vision, who are deafblind, or who have severe learning disabilities; provide an alternative education option;
- serve as regional resource centres for students who are deaf, blind, have deaf/blind or have severe learning disabilities;
- provide preschool home visiting services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, who are blind or have low vision, who are deafblind, or who have severe learning disabilities;
- provide outreach and home-visiting services to parents of preschool children who are deaf or hard of hearing, ar blind or have low vision, or are deafblind;
- develop and provide learning materials and media for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, are blind or have low vision, or are deafblind;
- provide school board teachers with resource services;
- provide an alternative education option; and
- provide professional development for teachers.

More information can be found [here](#).

PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND AND BLIND/DEAF

The following Provincial Schools offer services students who are blind or have low vision or are deafblind:

- W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford
- Centre Jules-Léger in Ottawa (language of instruction is French)

These schools provide:

- education for students who are blind, visually impaired, or deafblind;
- a provincial resource centre for the visually impaired and deafblind;
- support to local school boards through consultation and the provision of special learning materials, such as Braille materials, audiotapes, and large-print textbooks; and
- professional services and guidance to ministries of education on an inter-provincial, cooperative basis.

Programs are tailored to the needs of the individual student and:

- are designed to help these students learn to live independently in a non-sheltered environment;
- are delivered by specially trained teachers;
- follow the Ontario curriculum developed for all students in the province;
- offer a full range of courses at the secondary level;
- offer courses in special subject areas such as music, broad-based technology, family studies, physical education, and mobility training;

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- are individualized, to offer a comprehensive “life skills” program; and
- provide through home visiting for parents and families of preschool deaf/blind children to assist in preparing these children for future education.

PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

The following Provincial Schools offer services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students:

- Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville
- Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton
- Robarts School for the Deaf in London
- Centre Jules-Léger in Ottawa (language of instruction is French)

These schools provide elementary and secondary school programs for deaf students from preschool level to high school graduation. The curriculum follows the Ontario curriculum and parallels courses and programs provided in school boards. Each student has his or her special needs met as set out in his or her Individual Education Plan (IEP). Schools for the Deaf:

- provide rich and supportive bilingual/bicultural educational environments which facilitate students’ language acquisition, learning, and social development through American Sign Language (ASL) and English, or through Langue des Signes Quebecois (LSQ) and French;
- operate primarily as day and residential programs; and
- provide residential facilities five days per week for those students who do not live within reasonable commuting distance from the school.

Each Provincial School has a resource services department that provides:

- consultation and educational advice to parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and to school board personnel;
- information brochures;
- a wide variety of workshops for parents, school boards, and other agencies; and
- an extensive home-visiting program delivered to parents of preschool children who are deaf or hard of hearing by teachers trained in preschool and deaf education.

DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE SEVERE LEARNING DISABILITIES

Although the primary responsibility to provide appropriate educational programs for students with learning disabilities remains with school boards, the ministry recognizes that some students require a residential school setting for a period of time. The Ministry of Education provides services for children with severe learning disabilities at four Demonstration Schools:

- Amethyst School, London
- Centre Jules-Léger, Ottawa
- Sagonaska School, Belleville
- Trillium School, Milton

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Demonstration Schools were established to:

- provide special residential education programs for students between grades 4 and 11;
- enhance the development of each student’s academic and social skills; and
- develop the abilities of the students enrolled to a level that will enable them to return to programs operated by a local school board within two years.

A teacher education program is provided at each Demonstration School. This professional learning program is designed to share methodologies and materials with teachers of Ontario school boards. Information about the programs offered should be obtained from the schools themselves.

Each demonstration school has an enrolment of not more than forty students.

APPLICATION TO PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS AND DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS

Admittance to a Provincial School (for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing, who are blind or have low vision or who are deafblind) is determined by the Provincial Schools Admission Committee in accordance with the requirements set out in [Regulation 296](#).

Application for admission to a Demonstration School (for students with severe learning disabilities) is made on behalf of students by the school board, with parental consent. The Provincial Committee on Learning Disabilities (PCLD) determines whether a student is eligible for admission. Although the primary responsibility to provide appropriate educational programs for students with learning disabilities remains with school boards, the Ministry recognizes that some students require a residential school setting for a period of time.

TRANSPORTATION TO PROVINCIAL OR DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS

Transportation to Provincial Schools is provided by Trillium Lakelands District School Board. Transportation arrangements are developed on an individual basis. For students who need significant assistance, an educational assistant or other caregiver may be provided to accompany the student.

CURRENT YEAR STATISTICS

Provincial Schools	Number of TLDSB Students Attending
Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf	1
W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind	1

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Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf	0
Robarts School for the Deaf	0
Amethyst Demonstration School School	0
Centre Jules-Leger	0
Sagonaska Demonstration School	0
Trillium Demonstration School	0