

Provincial and Demonstration Schools in Ontario

Provincial Schools and provincial Demonstration Schools:

- are operated by the Ministry of Education;
- provide education for students who are deaf or blind, or who have severe learning disabilities;
- provide an alternative education option;
- serve as regional resource centers for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind;
- provide preschool home visiting services for students who are deaf or deaf-blind;
- develop and provide learning materials and media for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind;
- provide school board teachers with resource services;
- play a valuable role in teacher training.

W. Ross Macdonald School: School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind:

W. Ross Macdonald School is located in Brantford and provides education for students who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind. The school provides:

- a provincial resource center for the visually impaired and deaf-blind;
- support to local school boards through consultation and the provision of special learning materials, such as Braille materials, audiotapes, and large-print textbooks;
- professional services and guidance to ministries of education on an interprovincial, 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;
- are individualized, to offer a comprehensive "life "skills" program;
- provide through home visiting for parents and families of preschool deaf-blind children to assist in preparing these children for future education.

PROVINCIAL SCHOOL CONTACTS: teacher may obtain additional information from the Resource Services Departments of the Provincial Schools and the groups listed below:

**PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS BRANCH
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Provincial Schools Branch**
255 Ontario Street South
Milton, Ontario L9T 2M5
Tel: (905) 878-2851
Fax: (905) 878-5405

**School for the Deaf, Blind,
and Deaf Blind
Centre Jules-Leger**
281 rue Lanark
Ottawa, Ontario
Tel: (613) 761-9300
Fax: (613) 761-9301

**SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF
The Ernest C Drury School for the Deaf**
255 Ontario Street South
Milton, Ontario L9T 2M5
Tel: (905) 878-2851
Fax: (905) 8978-1354

**PROVINCIAL DEMONSTRATION
SCHOOLS**
The Ministry of Education provides the services of four provincial Demonstration Schools for Ontario children with severe learning disabilities.

The Robarts School for the Deaf
1090 Highbury Avenue
London, Ontario
N5Y 4V9
Tel: (519) 453-4400
Fax: (519) 453-7943

Amethyst School
1090 Highbury Avenue
London, Ontario
N5Y 4V9
Tel: (519) 453-4408
Fax: (519) 453-2160

**The Sir James Whitney
School for the Deaf**
350 Dundas Street West
Belleville, Ontario K8P 1B2
Tel: (613) 967-2823
Fax: (613) 967-2857

Centre Jules Leger
281 rue Lanark
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Z 6R8
Tel: (613) 761-9300 Fax (613)761-9301
TTY (613) 761-9302 and 761-9304

**SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
AND DEAF BLIND
W. Ross Macdonald School**
350 Brant Avenue
Brantford, Ontario N3T 3J9
Tel: (519) 759-0730
Fax: (519) 759-4741

Sagonaska School
350 Dundas Street West
Belleville, Ontario
K8) 1B2
Tel: (613) 967-2830
Fax: (613) 967-2482

Trillium School
347 Ontario Street South
Milton, Ontario L9T 3X9
Tel: (905) 878-8428
Fax: (905) 878-7540

Provincial Schools for the Deaf:

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

- Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville (serving eastern Ontario);
- Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton (serving central and northern Ontario);
- Robarts School for the Deaf in London (serving western Ontario);
- Centre Jules-Leger in Ottawa (serving francophone students and families throughout Ontario) (for contact information, see following page).

Admittance to a Provincial School is determined by the Provincial Schools Admission Committee in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 296.

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;
- Operate primarily as day schools;
- provide residential facilities five days per week for those students who do not live within reasonable commuting distance from the school.

Transportation to Provincial Schools for residential students is provided by the Ministry appointed lead Board; the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Day transportation for students attending Provincial schools continues to be facilitated by the local school boards.

Each school has a Resource Services Department which provides:

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

Each provincial Demonstration School has an enrolment of forty students. The language of instruction at the Amethyst, Sagonaska, and Trillium schools is English; at Centre Jules-Leger, instruction is in French.

Application for admission to a provincial Demonstration School is made on behalf of students by the school board, with parental consent. The Provincial Committee of 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.

The Demonstration Schools were established to:

- provide a special residential education programs for students between the ages of 5 and 21years
- enhance the development of each student's academic and social skills
- 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

In addition to providing residential schooling for students with severe learning disabilities, the provincial Demonstration Schools have special programs for students with severe learning disabilities in association with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD). These are highly intensive, one-year programs.

The Trillium School also operates Learning for Emotional and Academic Development (LEAD), a special program for students with severe learning disabilities who require an additional level of social/emotional support.

Further information about the academic, residential, LEAD, and LD/ADHD, programs is available from the Demonstration Schools through the Special Needs Opportunity Window (SNOW) website at <http://snow.utoronto.ca>.

An inservice teacher education program is provided at each Demonstration School. This 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.

Residential Demonstration Schools For Students with Learning Disabilities:

The Ministry of Education provides the services of three Demonstration Schools for students who have severe learning disabilities some of whom may have ADHD. **The Trillium School** in Milton is for students in the Metro Toronto area.

The program objectives of the demonstration schools are as follows:

- to provide residential education programs for students with severe learning disabilities;
- to assist enrolled students to develop personal life and learning strategies which will enable them to return to programs with in local school boards other educational jurisdictions, or the community;
- to provide in – service teacher education;
- to provide resource services for school boards as required, including student assessment and / or programming assistance.

Admission Procedures:

In order to be eligible for admission to a demonstration school, a candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

- the applicant must qualify as a resident student of the school board (as in Section 32 of the Education Act);
- because of the nature of the learning disability and /or other factors, the applicant must be in need of a residential education program;
- the applicant must have a severe learning disability, according to the Ministry definition;
- a psychologist or other mental health professional must have determined recently that the applicant is not in need of treatment for emotional or behavioural disorders;
- an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) must have recommended to the school board that the applicant be placed in a demonstration school;
- the applicant must have been assessed by a resource services consultant from a demonstration school.
- IPRC review needed to admit students.

Referrals:

Special Services Coordinators oversee the referral process to demonstration schools. School boards may make referral to the demonstration schools, upon the recommendation of an Identification, Placement and Review Committee. Such referrals shall be directed to the appropriate regional office of the Ministry of Education. The school board should ensure that the following are submitted to the regional office:

- assessment information;
- school history;
- personal and family data;
- a list of alternative placements in order of priority by the IPRC.

Revised application requirements have been provided by the Ministry of Education for use beginning in September 2003.

The Provincial Committee On Learning Disabilities:

Decisions regarding admission to demonstration schools will be made by the Provincial Committee on Learning Disabilities, which consists of:

- an official from the Special Education and Provincial Schools Branch, who will call and chair meetings;
- the demonstration school program directors;
- one representative of the Children's Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services;
- a registered psychologist;
- one or more additional representatives.

The Provincial Committee request additional information from the regional offices in order to determine the priority of candidates for the available places in the Demonstration Schools. In addition, the Committee will interview the applicants, the parent(s) / guardian(s), and the school board representatives. Meetings will take place in the appropriate regional office of the Ministry of Education and Training. The Committee will communicate its decisions and recommendations to the school board; copies will be sent to the parent(s) / guardian(s) and the regional office.

Residential Schools for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing:

The Ministry of Education provides the services of two Provincial Schools for the Deaf. E.C. Drury School in Milton is the residential school for the Deaf for students in the Toronto area.

The program objectives of the Schools for the Deaf are as follows:

- to provide residential education programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing;
- to assist enrolled students to develop personal life and learning strategies;
- to provide in-service teacher and related support staff education;
- to provide resource services to school boards which have established alternative; educational programs for the deaf under Ministry policy / program Memoranda 76C.

Admission Procedures:

In order to be eligible for admission to a school for the Deaf, a candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

- the applicant must qualify as a resident student of the school board (as in Section 32 of the Education Act);
- the applicant must be five years of age on or before the 31st of December of the year of admission;
- the applicant or parents must submit evidence satisfactory to the Provincial Superintendent (Schools for the Deaf) that, because of a severe or profound hearing loss, the applicant is in need of a Special Education Program;

- an Identification, Placement and review Committee (IPRC) must have recommended to the school board that the applicant be placed in the School the Blind or Deaf (a letter supporting the application must be submitted).

Referrals:

The Coordinator of TCDSB Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing oversees the referrals to the residential school. Boards may make referrals to Provincial Schools for the Deaf upon the recommendation of an Identification, Placement and Review Committee. Such referrals are made directly to the Superintendent, Provincial Schools for the Deaf.

The school board should ensure that the following are submitted to the Superintendent:

- assessment information (including recent audiological, psychological and speech-language pathology reports);
- school history;
- personal and family data;

The Provincial Admission Committee for Schools for the Deaf

Decisions regarding admission to Schools for the Deaf will be made by a Provincial Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee consists of:

- an official from the Special Education and Provincial Schools Branch who will call and chair meetings;
- school principal and vice-principal;
- Resource Services, Program Director;
- a registered psychologist;
- a social worker;
- a residence representative.

The committee will meet with the student (where appropriate), his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), and appropriate board personnel. The Admissions Committee will consider any additional factors such as emotional, behavioural, social, or physical problems which may affect the applicant's admissibility to the school. Meetings will take place at the appropriate Provincial School. The Admissions Committee will report its decision to the parents and school board; copies will be sent to the parents/guardians and the regional office.

Residential Schools for Students Who Are Blind or Deaf Blind

The Ministry of Education provides the services of one Provincial Schools for the Blind and Deaf-Blind at W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford.

The program objectives of the School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind are as follows:

- To provide residential education programs for students who are blind or deaf blind;
- To assist enrolled students to develop personal life and learning strategies;
- To provide in-service teacher and related support staff education;
- To provide resource services to school boards which have established alternative educational programs for the blind and deaf-blind under Ministry policy/program Memorandum 76C.

Criteria for Admission

In order to be eligible for admission to a school for the blind and deaf-blind, a candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

- The applicant must qualify as a resident student of the school board (as in Section 32 of the Education Act);
- Be educationally blind or deaf-blind, i.e. unable to use his/her sense of vision or vision/hearing to benefit from a program for blind or deaf-blind students;
- The school board and parents shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Provincial School that the applicant is in need of a Provincial School Program;
- An Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) must have recommended to the school board that the applicant be placed in the School for the Blind or Deaf-Blind;
- The applicant shall have been assessed by a resource services consultant from the W. Ross Macdonald School.

Referrals:

Referrals to W. Ross Macdonald School are processed by the Special Education Coordinator for North York Schools. Schools boards may make referrals to W. Ross Macdonald School upon the recommended of an Identification, Placement and Review Committee. Such referrals shall be submitted directly to the W. Ross Macdonald School.

The School Board must ensure that the following are submitted to the W. Ross Macdonald School:

- assessment information (including recent audiological, psychological, and speech language pathology reports);
- school history;
- personal and family data.

The Provincial Admission Committee For Schools For The Blind And Deaf-Blind:

Decisions regarding admission to the demonstration schools will be made by the Provincial Admissions Committee for Blind and Deaf-Blind students. This committee consists of:

- a chairperson, who will be the Superintendent or designate;
- the vice- principal of the Blind and / or Deaf –Blind program;
- Resource Services Consultant;
- a residence representative;
- an advocate representative of the Ministry of Education or the Children's Services Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services (invite to attend);
- other appropriate school staff (such as a psychologist or social worker).

The committee will meet with the student (where appropriate), his /her parent(s), and appropriate board personnel. The Provincial Committee may request additional information from the school board in order to determine the admissibility of the candidate. In addition, the Committee will interview the applicants, the parent(s) / guardian(s), and the school board representatives. Meetings will take place at W. Ross Macdonald School.

The committee will communicate its decisions and recommendations to the school board; copies will be sent to the parent(s) / guardian(s) and the regional office .

TRANSPORTATION:

Students who attend are provided transportation. Ministry does refund boards for 100% of the costs of transportation to the Demonstration Schools. There are currently no TCDSB students attending Provincial Schools at this time.

The Provincial piece of the TCDSB Ministry Special Education Plan 2001 was seen as partially meeting the Standards set out in the Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans. The following criteria was assessed by the Ministry as requiring more clarification.

How TCDSB provides transportation to children who attend Provincial Schools.

In TCDSB, decisions regarding how children will be transported to the Provincially run schools is made on an individual basis. Children who require additional attendants (health-care professionals, for instance) have that care provided on the mode of transportation as well. The cost of transportation to Provincial Schools is 100% refundable.

For children who attend day schools they are transported by wheel chair mini bus, van or taxi, depending on their needs from their home to the school.

Students who attend Residential Schools are provided transportation through the lead Board who in the GTA have the transportation facilitated by one of the local School Districts. They are picked up on Sunday evening and returned to their homes on Friday evening. The Provincial Schools and the agencies involved with the children determine the programming needs for the children and the type of transportation required.