

BLIND/LOW VISION (BLV)

Goal for 2016-17:

- To reduce any achievement gap between students identified with a BLV Exceptionality and all students, as measured through EQAO/OSSLT in 2017.
- EQAO/OSSLT 2017 Participating Eligible BLV Students to meet or exceed the provincial standard.
- Fully support Assistive Technology use by students with BLV needs for EQAO/OSSLT

Strategies Implemented:

- Use of Assistive Technology (equipment and student training)
- Capacity building professional development offered to regular classroom teachers (Elementary & Secondary) about Blind Low Vision Disabilities (instructional accommodations)
- support professional learning of *Growing Success* and Blind Low Vision students
- Capacity building professional development to Special Education teachers (Elementary & Secondary) regarding Blind Low Vision Disabilities (instructional accommodations)
- Inclusion of teachers of Blind Low Vision students in curriculum related in- services
- Support Differentiated Instruction with more specific strategies appropriate for Blind Low Vision learners

Blind Low Vision Trends and Academic Achievement (for students who are in an EQAO or OSSLT year):

- a) All students who are visually impaired (blind or low vision who receive support through the TDSB Vision Program) who are cognitively able to write EQAO and OSSLT are writing EQAO and OSSLT. Students who are visually impaired are not exempt from writing EQAO/OSSLT *because* of the visual impairment. They may be exempt from writing EQAO/OSSLT for some “other” learning need (e.g., MID, DD, ELL).
- b) All students who are visually impaired (blind or low vision) need extra time to complete EQAO/OSSLT.
- c) The majority of students with visual impairment will use the large print version of EQAO/OSSLT.
- d) Past data reflects that students with visual impairment will use their

“typical” accommodation options to write EQAO/OSSLT. Results have been consistent for the past 3 years with respect to types of accommodations needed (e.g.: Extra time and large print are the most frequently requested accommodations).