

## **Standard 11: Provincial and Demonstration Schools in Ontario**

**The purpose of the standard is to provide the public with information about the Provincial and Demonstration Schools that are operated for students who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind, or who have severe learning disabilities, which may include attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).**

### **Provincial Schools**

Provincial Schools may:

- Provide an alternative education option for students who are deaf, blind, deafblind or who have severe learning disabilities;
- Be accessed as a resource by Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) teachers/special education teachers;
- Provide pre-school home visiting services for students who are deaf, blind, or deafblind.

Admittance to a Provincial School is determined by the Provincial Schools Admission Committee in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 298.

When a student has received admission to a Provincial School, the Provincial School provides the parent(s)/guardian(s) with the Provincial Schools Transportation Form. Once completed, the form is sent to Student Transportation Services (STS) for processing and transportation arrangements are confirmed.

- The TVDSB has students typically attending four different Provincial Schools:
  - W. Ross Macdonald School: School for the Blind and Deaf (0 students);
  - Robarts School for the Deaf (33 students);
  - Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf (0 students);
  - Amethyst School for students with Learning Disabilities (7 students).

### **W. Ross Macdonald School: School for the Blind and Deafblind**

- W. Ross Macdonald School is located in Brantford and provides a residential, alternative education option for TVDSB students who are blind, visually impaired, or deafblind. Programs at W. Ross Macdonald School are tailored to the needs of the individual student.
- These programs:
  - 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, technological studies, family studies, physical education, and mobility training;
- Are individualized to offer a comprehensive “life skills” program;
- Provide a home-visiting program for parents/guardians and families of preschool deaf-blind children to assist in preparing these children for future education.
- The Resource Services Department of W. Ross Macdonald may be accessed by TVDSB teachers to provide special learning materials, such as Braille materials, audiotapes, and large-print textbooks. Assessments and information sharing/expertise can also be accessed.

### **Provincial Schools for the Deaf**

- The following Provincial Schools offer services for TVDSB deaf and hard-of-hearing students:
  - Robarts School for the Deaf in London is a day school serving Western Ontario;
  - Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton is a school providing lodging serving Central and Northern Ontario;
  - Centre Jules-Léger in Ottawa is an Educational Housing Program serving francophone students and families throughout Ontario.
- These schools provide elementary and secondary school programs for deaf students from pre-school level to high school graduation. These programs:
  - Provide rich and supportive bilingual/bi-cultural educational environments which facilitate students’ language acquisition, learning, and social development through American Sign Language (ASL) and English;
  - Are delivered by specially trained teachers;
  - Follow the Ontario curriculum developed for all students in the province.
- The Resource Services Department may be accessed by TVDSB teachers to provide consultative support as well as workshops, in-service, and information. The Resource Services Department also provides a home-visiting program for parents/guardians and families of deaf and hard-of-hearing pre-school children delivered by teachers trained in pre-school and deaf education.

### **Demonstration Schools**

- Provincial Demonstration Schools provide educational housing programs for students with severe learning disabilities. In addition, these schools have special programs for students with severe learning disabilities in association with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). These are highly intensive programs that students may apply to attend/access for one year.

- The Trillium School also operates Learning for Emotional and Academic Development (LEAD), a program for students with severe learning disabilities who require an additional level of social/emotional support.
- Application for admission to a Provincial Demonstration School is made on behalf of students by TVDSB, with parental consent. The Provincial Committee on Learning Disabilities (PCLD) determines whether a student is eligible for admission.
- The following Demonstration Schools offer services for TVDSB students:
  - Amethyst School in London, with Learning Disability (LD) and LD/ADHD programs serving Western and North-Western Ontario;
  - Trillium School with the LEAD Program serving Central and Mid-Northern Ontario;
  - Centre Jules-Léger in Ottawa which is an Educational Housing Program serving francophone students and families throughout Ontario.
- These schools provide live in special education programs for students between the ages of 5 and 21 years. These programs:
  - 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 TVDSB within two (2) years;
  - Provide, upon referral from schools, specialized consultative assistance for individual students;
  - Provide in-service and teacher education programs designed to share methodologies and materials with TVDSB staff.