



Section Eleven

Provincial and Demonstration Schools in Ontario



Section 11

PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS AND DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO

Program and Services offered by Provincial and Demonstration Schools

The Ministry of Education has direct responsibility for a number of very special schools in the province. These schools are referred to as provincial schools. They are residential schools geared to specific exceptionalities.

- W. Ross Macdonald School – *programs for blind and deaf students*
- Robarts School – *programs for deaf students*
- Sir James Whitney School – *programs for deaf students*
- Ernest C. Drury School – *programs for deaf students*

The Ministry also maintains demonstration (residential) schools for students with severe learning disabilities.

- Amethyst
- Sagonaska
- Trillium
- Centre Jules-Leger (offers programs in French for the deaf and severely learning disabled)

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.

Provincial Schools

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

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)

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 students is provided by school boards.

Each school as 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

Provincial School Contacts

Teachers 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

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) 878-1354

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

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

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

School for the Deaf, Blind and Deaf-Blind

Centre Jules-Leger
281 rue Lanark
Ottawa, Ontario
Tel.: (613) 761-9300
Fax: (613) 761-9301

Provincial Demonstration Schools

The Ministry of Education provides the services of four provincial Demonstration Schools for Ontario children with severed learning disabilities.

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

Sagonaska School
350 Dundas Street West
Belleville, Ontario
K8P 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

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

Admission Procedures for Demonstration Schools

Criteria for Admission

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

1. The applicant must qualify as a resident pupil of the school board (as in section 32 of the Education Act).
2. The applicant must be in need of a residential education program.
3. The applicant must have a severe learning disability, according to the definition cited above.
4. 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.
5. An Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) must have recommended to the school board that the applicant be placed in a demonstration school.
6. The applicant must have been assessed by a resource services consultant from a demonstration school.

Referrals

School boards may take referrals 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, prepared by the IPRC.

Full details of application requirements are outlined in the 1988 memorandum entitled "Application Procedures for Admission to Demonstration Schools," issued by and available from regional directors of education. Applications must be received by the regional offices before November 1 (for admission February 1), and before March 1 (for admission September 1).

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 Services Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services;
- a registered psychologist;
- one or more additional representatives

The Provincial Committee may 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 application, the parents or guardians, and the school board representatives. Meetings will take place in the appropriate regional office of the Ministry of Education.

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

Appeals

In the event of disagreement with the decision of the Committee, the Director of the Special Education and Provincial Schools Branch shall appoint a review committee to hear appeals, upon the request of a school board, the parent of an applicant, or an applicant who is 18 or older.

Lakehead District School Board and Provincial Demonstration Schools

Currently Lakehead District School Board has 1 student attending a provincial school.

The Board agrees to provide transportation for students attending Demonstration Schools or Provincial School Board (for example, the W. Ross Macdonald School (Ontario School for the Blind) and the Sir James Whitney/Sagonaska School (Ontario School for the Deaf)), in accordance with a schedule to be agreed upon in consultation with both Lakehead District School Board and the Provincial/Demonstration School staff.