

VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS SERVICES



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SUPPORT

Roles of District Itinerant Resource Teacher for Students with Visual Impairments

- ✓ Determines and delivers direct or consultative service to best meet the needs of students with visual impairments (Special Education Code E).
- ✓ Is an integral part of the school based team for all visually impaired students with a SPED Code E.
- ✓ Drafts goals in relation to the student's visual impairment needs which are the first goals to appear on the IEP of SPED Code E students.
- ✓ Attends all IEP and transition meetings for students who are visually impaired SPED Code E.
- ✓ Writes year end progress report that accompanies report card for those students receiving direct itinerant resource teacher service.

What Kinds of Services Are Available?

- ✓ Provides direct instruction or service in specialized skills on an itinerant basis:
 - ◆ Orientation and mobility
 - ◆ VI technology

- ◆ Braille
- ◆ Concept development
- ◆ Low vision assessment/enlargement and magnification
- ◆ Functional vision assessment

- ✓ Assists a student with classroom work, organizational skills, study skills, literacy and numeracy.
- ✓ Provides consultation and in-service to school personnel and families.
- ✓ Acts as liaison between school, home and outside agencies.
- ✓ Counsels students on self-advocacy issues related to their vision loss.
- ✓ Full participation in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process.
- ✓ Provides transition support.

What is the Referral Process?

A referral may be initiated by a:

1. Family Physician
2. Parent
3. Ophthalmologist
4. Optometrist

5. Classroom Teacher/Resource Teacher
6. Teacher of the Visually Impaired

The student will meet one of the following clinical criteria for service:

- ✓ A visual acuity of 6/21 (20/70) or less in the better eye after correction.
- ✓ A visual field of 20 degrees or less.
- ✓ Any progressive eye disease with a prognosis of becoming one of the above in the next few years.
- ✓ An uncorrectable visual problem or reduced visual stamina such that the student functions as if his/her visual acuity is limited to 6/21 or less.

Clinical information is processed by the District Screening Committee.

Application is made on behalf of the student to access alternate format instructional materials through the Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired (PRCVI) and to access technological support through Special Education technology BC (SET BC) should this be required. The Certification of Eligibility for Vision services from must be signed by the student's Ophthalmologist or Optometrist.

What Are Some Signs of Vision Loss?

Your child should see a family doctor or eye doctor (optometrist or ophthalmologist) if you notice any of these signs or symptoms:

- ✓ Blurred vision
- ✓ Headaches
- ✓ Red, itchy or watery eyes
- ✓ Squinting, rubbing the eyes, or excessive blinking
- ✓ Covering or closing one eye
- ✓ Holding objects too close
- ✓ Reading items or watching television very closely
- ✓ Avoiding activities needing distance vision
- ✓ Poor performance in school
- ✓ Lack of coordination or clumsiness in physical activities.

Facts

- According to Statistics Canada, there are more than 600,000 Canadians living with a vision problem that cannot be corrected with ordinary lenses.
- Many children do not know that they have a vision problem. Changes in a child's vision happen very slowly. A child may think that everyone else sees the same way they do.
- Children's vision continues to develop until about 8 years of age; after that, eyesight development is complete and cannot be corrected easily.

Contact Information

Your child's school or Inclusive Education Support at:

2557 Beverly St
Duncan, BC, V9L 2X3

Phone: 250-748-0321 Ext 286

Fax: 250-748-4617