



RENFREW COUNTY  
DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD

## Special Education Department

### INFORMATION BROCHURE

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## BLIND / LOW VISION

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Renfrew County District School Board  
Special Education Department  
Mary Street Education Centre  
480 Mary Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5W9

T: 613-735-0151 or 1-800-267-1098 x3300

Web: [www.renfrew.edu.on.ca/speced/RCDSB\\_SpEd\\_Home.htm](http://www.renfrew.edu.on.ca/speced/RCDSB_SpEd_Home.htm)  
Email: [speced@renfrew.edu.on.ca](mailto:speced@renfrew.edu.on.ca)

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*When used in this document, the word  
“parent” includes guardian.*

**The Renfrew County District School Board provides Special Education programs and services in accordance with the Education Act and Regulations.**

## **DEFINITION**

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A student identified as having a visual impairment or has been medically identified as being blind will experience difficulty to a varying degree depending on the level of impairment in all aspects of the educational program that requires visual skills. In addition to the educational program there may be a need for orientation and mobility training.

The Ministry of Education defines the exceptionality as:

### *Blind And Low Vision*

*A condition of partial or total impairment of sight or vision that, even with correction, affects educational performance adversely.*

## **PROGRAMS**

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Programs for the students with visual impairments are available from a Specialist teacher within the elementary and secondary schools

in the Renfrew County District School Board. The Specialist Teacher will provide support to the student, and school staff based on the student's level of visual impairment.

For students with a severe visual impairment and who meet the criteria of eligibility to be admitted to the W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind, the Specialist Teacher can provide twenty-five to fifty percent direct instruction to the student.

## **HOW A STUDENT IS PLACED IN THE PROGRAM**

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If your child has been identified as Blind or Visually Impaired please bring this information to the attention of the school principal when you register your child. The principal will refer your child for special education services and an Identification, Placement and Review committee meeting will be held. This committee is responsible for identifying the needs of special students and for recommending a special education placement or services to meet your child's needs.

For more information regarding the identification, placement and review process and the rights of parents, please ask your school principal for a copy of the parent guide "Parents As Partners."

## **RESOURCES**

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Contact your family physician or Optometrist if you think your child is having vision problems.

Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Web: [www.cnib.ca](http://www.cnib.ca)

Ottawa Area District Office  
1101 Prince of Wales Dr, Suite 135  
Ottawa, K2C 3W7  
Tel: (613) 563-4021  
Fax: (613) 563-1898