

2.10: Provincial and Demonstration Schools

The Ministry of Education administers several provincial schools. These include W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind in Brantford, Roberts School for the Deaf in London and three Demonstration Schools for students with severe learning disabilities. Once a student has been accepted to a provincial school, arrangements for appropriate transportation are made through the Transportation Department of the Lambton-Kent District School Board. Transportation Department staff meets with the Provincial Schools Committee to determine individual arrangements.

Provincial Schools and provincial Demonstration Schools:

- are operated by the Ministry of Education;
- provide education for students who are blind/low vision, Deaf/hard of hearing, or who have severe learning disabilities;
- provide an alternative education option;
- serve as regional resource centres for students who are blind/low vision, deaf/hard of hearing;
- provide preschool home visiting services for students who are blind/low vision, Deaf/hard of hearing;
- develop and provide learning materials and media for students who are blind/low vision, Deaf/hard of hearing;
- provide school board teachers with resource services;
- play a valuable role in teacher training.

Provincial School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind

There is one Provincial School for blind and deaf-blind students. W. Ross Macdonald School is 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, audio-tapes, and large-print textbooks;
- professional services and guidance to ministries of education on an interprovincial, 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 through home visiting for parents and families of preschool deaf-blind children to assist in preparing these children for future education.

Provincial Schools for the Deaf

The following Provincial Schools offer services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students (for contact information, see next page.):

- 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)
- Roberts 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 their special needs met as set out in their 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 has 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 Schools for Students with Severe Learning Disabilities

Each provincial Demonstration School has an enrolment of forty students. The language of instruction at the Amethyst, Sagonaska, and Trillium schools is English; at Centre Jules-Leger, instruction is in French.

Application for admission to a provincial Demonstration School is made on behalf of students by the school board, with parental consent. The Provincial Committee on Learning Disabilities (PCLD) determines whether a student is eligible for admission.

Although the primary responsibility to provide appropriate educational programs for students with learning disabilities remains with school boards, the ministry recognizes that some students require a residential school setting for a period of time.

The Demonstration Schools were established to:

- provide special residential education programs for students between the ages of 5 and 21 years;
- 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 a local school board within two years.

In addition to providing residential schooling for students with severe learning disabilities, the provincial Demonstration Schools have special programs for students with severe learning disabilities in association with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). These are highly intensive, one and two-year programs.

The Trillium School also operates Learning for Emotional and Academic Development (LEAD), a special one-year program for students with severe learning disabilities who require an additional level of social/emotional support.

Further information about the academic, residential, LEAD, and LD/ADHD, programs is available from the Demonstration Schools through the [Special Needs Opportunity Window \(SNOW\)](#) website.

An in-service teacher education program is provided at each Demonstration School. This program is designed to share methodologies and materials with teachers of Ontario school boards. Information about the programs offered should be obtained from the schools themselves.

The number of Lambton-Kent District School Board students attending Provincial and Demonstration Schools is as follows:

- Amethyst School, London – 5
- Ernest C. Drury School, Milton – 0
- Robarts School, London – 3
- Trillium Demonstration School, Milton – 0
- W. Ross Macdonald School, Brantford – 0

Provincial School Contacts

Teachers may obtain additional information from the Resource Services departments of the Provincial Schools and the groups listed below.

School	Address	Phone
Provincial Schools Branch, Ministry of Education - Provincial Schools Branch	255 Ontario Street South Milton, ON L9T 2M5	(905) 878-2851
Schools for the Deaf The Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf	255 Ontario Street South Milton, ON L9T 2M5	(905) 878-2851
The Robarts School for the Deaf	1515 Cheapside Street London, ON N5V 3N9	(519) 453-4400
The Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf	350 Dundas Street West Belleville, ON K8P 1B2	(613) 967-2823
School for the Blind and Deaf-Blind W. Ross Macdonald School	350 Brant Avenue Brantford, ON N3T 3J8	(519) 759-0730
School for the Deaf, Blind, and Deaf-Blind: Centre-Jules-Leger	281 rue Lanark Ottawa, ON K1Z 6R8	(613) 761-9300

Provincial Demonstration Schools

The Ministry of Education provides the services of four provincial Demonstration Schools for Ontario children with severe learning disabilities. These schools are the following:

School	Address	Phone
Amethyst Demonstration School	1515 Cheapside Street London, ON N5V 3N9	(519) 453-4400
Centre Jules-Leger	281 rue Lanark Ottawa, ON K1Z 6R8	(613) 761-9300
Sagonaska Demonstration School	350 Dundas Street West Belleville, ON K8P 1B2	(613) 967-2830
Trillium Demonstration School	255 Ontario Street South Milton, ON L9T 2M5	(905) 878-2851