

Category – Physical – Blind/Low Vision

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEFINITION

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

Assessment/Diagnostic Information	IPRC Criteria Guidelines and Referral Process
<p>Information from a regulated health professional will contain information including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments relating to the student's vision impairment and impairments in academic achievement or adaptive functioning (conceptual, social, practical), academic achievement. 	<p>Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus the discussion on the student's strengths and needs Consider assessment information from a variety of sources including specific assessments related to the student's vision impairment academic achievement, adaptive behaviour If the student is already Exceptional, review the current IEP The IPRC secretary will manage follow-up communication and record keeping. <p>Referral Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant information should be entered into the Special Education Module so that the student profile can be used by the IPRC Schools make referrals to the Regional Special Programs IPRC for identification and placement Parents should be informed of the IPRC process, its purpose and possible outcomes before proceeding with a referral The IPRC may defer making identification or placement decisions if it feels that more information is needed. Representatives from the referring school will manage the pre-meeting communication and record keeping.

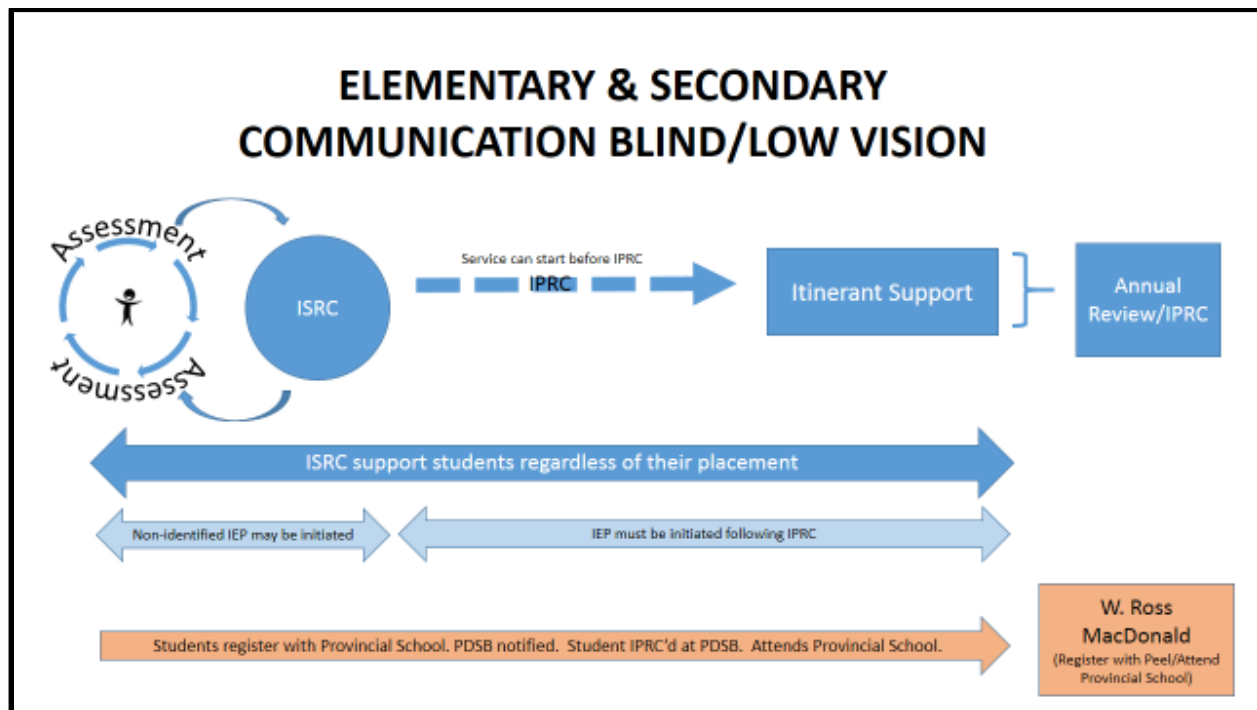
Peel District School Board Special Programs department supports students with special learning considerations (E.g. Blind or Low Vision). They may have a medical diagnosis and may or may not be identified as an exceptional student. Supports available to special programs students may include, but are not limited to, itinerant teacher support.

There are many factors that are considered at an ISRC that would determine the level of support for a student with a vision loss. Some of these are:

- a) the student has visual acuities of 20/70 or greater in the better eye, with correction
- b) an ophthalmology report

Students who are Blind (no light perception) are offered instruction in Braille communication. This service is provided by an Itinerant Teacher with training in Braille.

PLACEMENT OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH AN EXCEPTIONALITY OF BLIND/LOW VISION



PLACEMENT:	Itinerant Support
Class Placement:	<i>Itinerant Support – Blind or Low Vision</i> Regular education class/Home school
Class Type:	Indirect/Resource/Withdrawal Assistance (One of the above stated class types)
Program Grades:	All grades from Kindergarten to Grade 12
Class Size:	Ministry of Education regulations for class size
Staffing:	Regular education classroom teacher Special education teacher Itinerant Special Education Teacher – Blind and Low Vision

Program Description:

- Students attending the Peel District School Board who have a diagnosis of Blind or Low Vision receive Itinerant services prior to being identified as an exceptional student.
- Students are then identified through an Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meeting as Exceptional *Physical—Blind or Low Vision* and are placed in the *Itinerant Service Program*.
- Itinerant services are designed to support students within the framework of regular education classroom programs.
- The itinerant teacher offers consultation to teachers and coordination of information between home, school and community agencies.
- The program focus for students with Itinerant Service may include the following:
 - understanding of the individual needs of the student
 - understanding of specialized equipment
 - development and remediation of language skills
 - direct instruction when appropriate
 - assistance in developing emotional and physical well being
 - development of adaptive behaviour skills including personal competence, social skills and independence
 - orientation and mobility services may be available
- Blind students also receive the support of a teaching assistant within the regular classroom.
- Programs are based on Ministry curriculum guidelines and may be accommodated and/or modified as set out in the Individual Education Plan.