

Students with vision loss

NLPS has a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI) who provides direct service to students kindergarten to grade 12 whose educational and social emotional development is significantly impacted by vision loss.



Services may include:

- Functional vision assessments, as required
- Direct instruction in areas such as braille, visual aids, specialized technology, social skills, self-advocacy, orientation and mobility, and independent living skills
- In-service for school staff, families, and student about eye conditions, visual impairments and inclusive approaches for learning
- Collaboration with braillists regarding braille transcription, adapting maps/diagrams and access to classroom materials & curriculum
- Supporting effective communication between home, school, eye doctors and community agencies
- Collaboration with the school based team to provide accessible materials from provincial resource programs, such as braille textbooks, large print textbooks and e-pub

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Tools to support students with vision loss

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iOS Accessibility Features

- Voiceover: gesture-based screen reader (audible descriptions) to use iPhone even if user is unable to see the screen
- Zoom for magnification; take pictures to save notes from whiteboard, for example, and zoom in to view.
- Changes to text size & display
- Guided access
- Voice access (Siri)
- Apps for iOS devices such as Talking Calculator (iOS only) for audio access to math calculations; Magnifying Glass with Light and My Vision Helper (iOS only) for magnification ; TapTapSee, Viz Wiz, Be My Eyes, Ai Poly Vision for object identification. Learning Ally, Kindle, KNFB Reader for text-to-speech.



Microsoft Ease of Access Options

- Audio prompts/narration
- High-visibility/contrast screen settings
- Magnification of mouse pointer, cursor, text etc.
- Keyboard shortcuts
- Microsoft Immersive Reader and Google

Other Options

- School teams are able to access re-sources through provincial resource programs (PRCVI, ARC-BC), to obtain digital text for text-to-speech, hard copy large print and braille textbooks and literary resources.
- Specialist teachers also access a range of assistive technology (e.g. digital magnifiers for students with low vision, refreshable braille displays and non-visual screen reader programs) for students who are blind through another provincial resource program called SET-BC.

Accessing Specialist Support

If your child requires support from a specialist teacher, their classroom teacher will submit a referral to the School-Based Team.

Each referral is considered on an individual basis— the amount of support, and resources chosen, will be selected for each learner to best meet their needs.

We begin by exploring universal options (things available to everyone), and/or specific tools in the classroom setting, in order to provide your child with inclusive learning opportunities.

Additional individual or small group support may be provided by a variety of adults in the school: the Specialist Teacher, school-based Inclusion Support Teacher, Classroom Teacher, Education Assistant or Speech-Language Pathologist.

We are always working to build independence for students, so the support and intervention for your child will change over time as they build the stamina and skills needed to be a successful learner. Sometimes, we will provide specific intervention for a period of time, and then give them a bit of time to practice these skills back in their classroom, before resuming individual interventions.

We will work with you, and the others who support your child outside of school, to develop an individualized approach to meet your child's needs.

Referrals for these services are made through your child's classroom teacher to the School-Based Team. The team will require copies of medical and other assessment reports, to determine the support required, and to guide the development of the plan.



School Support Team

The Inclusive Education Team is the group of specialists who collaborate with classroom teachers and families to establish and monitor the interventions, goals and strategies being put in place to help your child be safe and successful at school.



Students who meet Ministry of Education Criteria will be formally designated in Category F: Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and assigned a case manager, who will help to develop an inclusive education plan (IEP) for your child.

An Inclusion Support Teacher works with your child's classroom teacher to provide support to your child and coordinate your child's IEP.

Education Assistants are assigned to learning environments and provide individual support to a variety of students. Some students will receive individualized support, others may have shared support. This is allocated on the basis of the student's individualized needs.

Additional support from a Speech Language Pathologist, English Language Learning Teacher, School Psychologist, or Child, Youth & Family Support Worker, may also be recommended.