

B.C. Provincial Outreach Programs

British Columbia's Ministry of Education funds a number of unique programs to help meet the educational needs of low-incidence students in BC school districts. More information regarding Provincial Outreach Programs (POPs) can be found at <http://www.popbc.ca/>. The following eight Provincial Outreach Programs provide community-based services for low incidence students in partnership with BC public school districts and Group I and II independent schools.

<p>Provincial Integration Support Program</p>	<p>Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders</p>
<p>http://www.pisp.ca</p>	<p>http://www.autismoutreach.ca</p>
<p>PISP serves students with severe/profound cognitive and multiple physical disabilities. They provide onsite student consultations, training through in-service and university courses, online website strategies and resources, case manager distance support, individualized student curriculum binders, modeling trans-disciplinary work within classrooms, team building and resolution, and short term equipment loans.</p>	<p>POPARD serves students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. ASD includes: Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS/Atypical Autism). They provide both consultative and capacity building services.</p>
<p>Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness</p>	<p>Provincial Resource Program – Auditory Outreach</p>
<p>http://public.sd38.bc.ca/DeafblindWeb</p>	<p>http://www.auditoryoutreach.ca</p>
<p>POPDB provides ongoing consultation services, in-service and training in deafblindness and intervener training courses. A request for service must come from district personnel.</p> <p>Check out <i>In Touch</i>, POPDBs online newsletter at (http://public.sd38.bc.ca/DeafblindWeb/intouch). There are several stories submitted by school staff that are very inspiring. In reading through them, I was reminded why I chose to be a special education teacher.</p>	<p>PRPAO serves Kindergarten to grade 12 students experiencing auditory difficulties. PRPAO provides consultation to school staff and to parents in the areas of audiology, speech-language pathology and education, assistance with assessments and assistance with the establishment of goals for individualized programs. The Auditory Outreach also loans assistive listening devices for individual students identified as needing this technology for school use. Specific services have been developed to assist children who have or are being considered for a cochlear implant.</p>

Provincial Outreach Program for Student who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

http://www.sd41.bc.ca/programs/provincial_outreach_program.htm

POPSDHH serves students who have a medically diagnosed hearing loss which results in substantial educational difficulty or a central auditory processing dysfunction. Students must have an additional diagnosis of peripheral hearing loss in order to be considered deaf or hard of hearing. They provide consultation with teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, regular classroom teachers, parents and other educational team members, facilitate IEPs, provide video-conferencing opportunities for staff, students and families, curriculum support through the use of technology, literacy and social responsibility direct support to connect students across the province, assist with in-service for district resource people, interpreter and educational support to teachers of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, and networking among parent groups, service organizations and school programs.

Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired

<http://www.prcvi.org>

PRCVI supports students with visual impairments/blindness and deafblindness. They provide Ministry recommended textbooks and other learning resources in alternate format (e-text, braille, large print), consultations support, training activities and professional development. As of May 2010, Audio and E-text materials produced by PRCVI are no longer available in hard copy. The files must now be accessed through the ARC-BC website (<http://www.arc-bc.org/>). The Accessible Resource Centre – British Columbia is a BC Ministry of Education funded response to the increasing demand for digital or alternate format alternatives to print in BC classrooms. The goal of ARC-BC is to provide students with perceptual disabilities and the educators supporting them with high quality digital alternate format materials based on the BC K-12 curriculum.

Provincial Outreach Program for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

<http://fasdoutreach.ca>

POPFASD serves students with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. They provide access to resources via their website, online eLearning modules, training, workshops, liaison, consultation, research, facilitation and sharing of information.

The POPFASD website provides valuable information, such as 29 eLearning modules including topics such as 'Learning about FASD', 'Planning Instruction', 'Creating a Positive Behaviour Climate', 'Teaching to Strengths and Needs', 'Developing the IEP', 'Transitioning', and 'Assessment Networks'. The videos vary in length but are generally 10 minutes in length or less – something that you can do in the limited time that you have.

Special Education Technology BC

<http://www.setbc.org>

SET BC serves students with autism spectrum disorders, deafblindness, dependent handicaps, moderate to profound intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities and visual impairments. They provide consultation for school based teams, assistive technology loan, technical support, training for educators and students, and resources for classroom implementation of technology.

SET BC's services must be applied for in one of the three yearly cycles. Dates are similar but do change every year. Please refer to the specific deadlines for public and independent schools in the 'Service Delivery' section of the website.