



## Information for BC Distributed Learning Programs & BC Online Schools

### **Provincial Resource Programs - Outreach Programs Mandate**

Through collaborative partnerships, provincial outreach programs support transdisciplinary educational teams in developing, implementing, and sustaining effective and meaningful access and engagement to learning opportunities for all learners. This includes universal and responsive supports for learners with diverse abilities and disabilities across educational contexts.

### **Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness Mandate**

The mandate for the Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness is to provide support to BC school teams working with K-12 students with deafblindness.

### **Working with the Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness**

- POPDB Consultants hold BC Teaching Certificates and have received specific training in deafblindness.
- POPDB Consultants are not responsible for the student's program. Responsibility for the student's program lies with the Distributed Learning Program.
  - The Distributed Learning Program is responsible for writing the Individual Education Plan (IEP).
  - The Distributed Learning Program is responsible for implementing and evaluating the program.
- POPDB follows a consultative model with BC school teams. POPDB Consultants can:
  - Provide information about the unique needs of the student with deafblindness.
  - Share knowledge of proven strategies and effective techniques from the field of deafblindness.
  - Consult on programs that the Distributed Learning Program has implemented.
  - Empower people providing the day-to-day support to understand the impact that deafblindness has on the student's ability to learn and interact with the world.
  - Invite the educational assistant and other team members who are working with the student with deafblindness to attend professional development sessions around the province.
  - Invite the educational assistant who is working with the student to access courses in deafblindness.
  - Attend IEP and Team Meetings virtually.
- POPDB recommends that a qualified Teacher for Students with Visual Impairments and a qualified Teacher for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing are involved to help meet the specific, unique needs in those fields. POPDB does not replace the roles and expertise these Teachers have in their respective fields.
- POPDB reserves the decision on the frequency, duration, and type of student visits. All consultation visits will be via electronic/virtual means.