



Information for Families Working

with BC Distributed Learning Programs & Online Schools

Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness: Our 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.

Deafblindness & Intervention: Key Information

- A person with deafblindness is one who has a combined loss of vision and hearing, such that neither sense can be used as a primary source of accessing information.
- Deafblindness is an information-gathering disability. It is a unique and rare disability.
- Intervention is a process that allows a person who is deafblind to receive visual and auditory information that they are unable to gather on their own.
- Intervention looks different for each person with deafblindness, depending on their needs. Meaningful Intervention allows someone who is deafblind to interact with the world around them in meaningful ways.

Working with POPDB

- POPDB Consultants are BC certified teachers with special training in deafblindness.
- POPDB Consultants are not employees of your Distributed Learning Program. POPDB Consultants are part of the Ministry of Education, Inclusive Education Branch. POPDB is invited to be involved in your child's learning.
- Your Distributed Learning Program is responsible for helping you create your child's educational program. Your Distributed Learning Program will write your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and will help you implement and evaluate your child's program.
- POPDB reserves the decision on the frequency, duration and type of student visits. Consultation visits will be via electronic/virtual means.
- POPDB Consultants can:
 - Provide information about the unique needs of the student with deafblindness.
 - Share effective techniques and strategies from the field of deafblindness.
 - Consult on the program that you and your Distributed Learning Program have created.
 - Encourage the student's team to consider the impact that deafblindness has on the student's ability to learn and interact with the world.
 - Invite 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 take courses in deafblindness.
 - Attend IEP and Team Meetings virtually.
 - Introduce you to the Canadian Deafblind Association – BC Chapter.