

## HOW A STUDENT IS PLACED IN THE PROGRAM

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### Elementary

When a child is experiencing difficulty, he/she is referred to the school's special education staff and an educational assessment will be completed, with the parent's permission. Placement or further assessment will be considered based on these results.

### Secondary

Students at the secondary level are referred to the Special Education Department Head who will review the student's abilities and learning needs, and if necessary make a recommendation for further testing by Board Psycho-Educational Resource Staff.

If your child is experiencing difficulty at school, you should contact the principal of your school. Parents will be informed if the school staff feels that your child has special needs.

For more information regarding the identification, placement and review process and the rights of parents, please ask your school principal for a copy of the parent guide "Parents As Partners."

## HOW THE PARENT CAN HELP

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You can help your child most by:

- being encouraging;
- recognizing that your son or daughter can succeed. It may simply take them a little longer;
- helping your son or daughter establish and maintain structured routines and organization in their world.

## RESOURCES

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Learning Disability Association Ottawa-Carleton  
160 Percy St, Ottawa K1R 6E5  
Telephone: (613) 567-5864  
Fax: (613) 567-5979  
Web: [www.ncf.ca/ldao-c](http://www.ncf.ca/ldao-c)

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (L.D.A.O.)  
Suite 1005, 364 Bloor Street East, Box 39,  
Toronto, ON M4W 3L4  
Telephone: (416) 929-4311  
Fax: (416) 929-3905  
Web: [www.ldao.on.ca](http://www.ldao.on.ca)

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Renfrew County District School Board  
Special Education Department  
Mary Street Education Centre  
480 Mary Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5W9

T: 613-735-0151 or 1-800-267-1098 x3300

Web: [www.renfrew.edu.on.ca/speced/RCDSB\\_SpEd\\_Home.htm](http://www.renfrew.edu.on.ca/speced/RCDSB_SpEd_Home.htm)  
Email: [speced@renfrew.edu.on.ca](mailto:speced@renfrew.edu.on.ca)

March 2008



RENFREW COUNTY  
DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD

## Special Education Department

### INFORMATION BROCHURE

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## LEARNING DISABILITY

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*When used in this document, the word  
"parent" includes guardian.*

## The Renfrew County District School Board provides Special Education programs and services in accordance with the Education Act and Regulations.

### DEFINITION

A student identified as having a learning disability is of average or above average ability and shows a significant difference between his/her estimated potential and actual academic performance. The student may experience difficulty in understanding, processing, or communicating language through written or spoken expression. This difficulty is not due to a visual or hearing difficulty, a motor handicap, an emotional disturbance, or environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage.

The Ministry of Education defines the exceptionality as:

#### *Learning Disability*

*A learning disorder evident in both academic and social situations that involves one or more of the processes necessary for the proper use of spoken language or the symbols of communication, and that is characterized by a condition that:*

- a) *is not primarily the result of:*
  - *impairment of vision*
  - *impairment of hearing*
  - *physical handicap;*
  - *developmental disabilities;*

- *primary emotional disturbance;*
- *cultural difference; and*

- b) *results in a significant discrepancy between academic achievement and assessed intellectual ability, with deficits in one or more of the following:*
  - *receptive language (listening, reading);*
  - *language processing (thinking, conceptualising, integrating);*
  - *expressive language (talking, spelling, writing);*
  - *mathematical computations*
- c) *may be associated with one or more conditions diagnosed as:*
  - *a perceptual handicap;*
  - *a brain injury;*
  - *minimal brain dysfunction;*
  - *dyslexia*
  - *developmental aphasia.*

**A student who has a learning disability can be successful at school. Programs can be modified to varying degrees and in many different ways.**

### PROGRAMS

Not all students with learning disabilities require the same kind of education. The degree of disability can vary from student to student. Students may require simple modifications to their program, such as more time to complete reading assignments. Other students may require modification to

most of the regular program, such as the amount of material covered in one session, how it is presented and how the student's learning is evaluated.

#### Elementary

The Special Education Resource Teacher serves the needs of pupils who require assistance beyond that provided by a regular classroom teacher. This assistance usually takes place in the pupil's regular classroom.

For pupils who require in-depth modifications outside the regular classroom, Learning Disability Class programs exist in a number of elementary schools within the county.

#### Secondary

Two delivery models exist for the student with a learning disability at the secondary level. In the resource model, the student is withdrawn for a portion of a period, or the student's timetable is organized to allow for a full resource period. During this time, the resource teacher may provide small group or individual instruction.

Credit models vary. Contact your child's secondary school to determine which credit model is offered and ask the Special Education Department Head for a course outline.