

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

For students who are deaf or hard of hearing

The Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) is an interprovincial co-operative agency established in 1975 by joint agreement among the Ministers of Education of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. APSEA serves children and youth from birth to 21 years of age who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind and who are residents of Atlantic Canada.

APSEA supports the philosophy of the inclusion of students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind with their peers in their community schools. School districts/boards are recognized as having responsibility for the education of all school-age children.

Programs and services offered by APSEA are designed to assist school districts/boards in the provision of adaptations required for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. APSEA supports a service delivery system which makes it possible for each child to receive an educational program designed to meet the student's individual needs. The majority of services are provided to students in their local communities, however, some programs are provided through short-term programs (one week to five months) at the APSEA Centre in Halifax.

Programs and services are provided in co-operation with provincial Departments of Education and include:

Itinerant Teacher Services

- Service to students in the public school system.
- Supervision of educational interpreter/assistants (EI/As) and APSEA tutors.
- Direct service to students who have a severe language delay due to their deafness.
- Inservices and consultative service to school district/board personnel.
- Program support for those students who receive direct, EI/A or tutorial service.
- Collaboration with classroom teachers to help them modify materials and programs for student's use.
- Provision of technical support in the care and use of amplification equipment and cochlear implant technology.
- Earmold impressions and fittings.
- The itinerant teacher also provides a preschool parent education program to serve the individual needs of preschool children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind and their parents.

Language Transition Program Services

- Support for students whose current linguistic and communicative needs require intensive intervention.
- Provision of an individualized language program.
- Collaboration with teachers in the school to transition students into an inclusive setting.
- Supervision of the APSEA teacher assistants and EI/As who facilitate the student's transition into an inclusive classroom setting.

Short-Term Programs

- Provides a comprehensive level of programming which may be difficult to incorporate in an integrated setting.
- Focuses on the mastery of specific skills or addresses specific learning or behavioural difficulties.
- Involves parents and public school staff in the design, implementation, and follow up of short-term programs.
- Varies in length to a maximum of one semester.

Assessment Support

- The Assessment Team is made up of an audiologist, a psychologist, an academic language evaluator and a career planning evaluator.
- Comprehensive psychoeducational assessments are completed on students entering the school system for the first time.
- Assessments are completed on students who are experiencing academic difficulty.
- Assessments are provided for students to assist in transition planning.
- Written assessment reports are shared with school teams.

Amplification and Technical Support

- Maintenance of student's personal hearing aids and FM hearing aid systems.
- Provision of technical computer support for APSEA teachers.

Consultant for Educational Interpreter/Assistants

- Provides inservices and support to school districts/boards on the EI/A service.
- Visits the student, school personnel and EI/A to facilitate the use of the service.
- Provides written observation reports to the APSEA provincial supervisor.
- Co-ordinates sign communication proficiency interviews for APSEA staff.
- Co-ordinates summer programs.

Consultant for Students who are Deafblind or Deaf with Multiple Disabilities

- Visits the student, school personnel and APSEA teacher to assess the student and school environment in order to track the progress of the student.
- Collaborates with the student's professional team and the student's parents.
- Helps the team develop an individual program plan and/or put an educational plan in place.
- Provides written reports to the itinerant teacher and APSEA provincial supervisor to share with the student's team.

Consultant for Auditory-Verbal Therapy

- Provides individual assessment, structured programming in auditory skills development and meaningful activities to generalize speech, language, cognition and communication goals.
- Works with the parents, APSEA staff members and other professionals to develop an Individual Service Plan for auditory-verbal therapy.

- Collaborates with professionals at audiology clinics and cochlear implant centers.
- Provides follow-up written reports to the itinerant teacher and APSEA provincial supervisor to share with the student's team.
- Develops related summer programs for professionals.

Student/Family Consultant

- Visits schools and home settings where student/parents are dealing with issues such as cultural isolation, raising a child who has a hearing loss, and psychosocial issues that children and youth who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind may experience.
- Collaborates with school districts/boards and other agencies to establish the necessary support to help the child function at home and at school.
- Provides direct counselling service to students where appropriate.

Transition Planning Facilitator

- Assists the student and parents in establishing career goals in the areas of education, finance, housing, health and recreation.
- Assists in the development and implementation of career-focused short-term programs.
- Encourages links with business and industry for work placement positions.
- Supports job shadowing and visits to industry.
- Advocates for adaptations and modifications of post-secondary programs to meet the individual needs of students.

Referral for Services

- Referrals for preschool age children are made by the audiologist who contacts APSEA on behalf of the parent.
- Referrals for school age children are made by the school district/board.

For further information, please contact:

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