



Students with Vision Loss Initiative

Summary Report

May 29, 2008 – March 31, 2011

**Government
of Alberta** ■



STUDENTS WITH VISION LOSS INITIATIVE

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Introduction

Students with vision loss in Alberta are an extremely heterogeneous and low-incidence group which has complex and unique instructional needs. They vary in age, degree of vision loss, grade placement and cognitive ability. School authorities have the responsibility for providing educational programming that will meet their diverse needs. In November 2007, in answer to concerns raised by stakeholders, the Minister of Education requested a review of the services for students who are blind or visually impaired. The purpose of the review was to determine what supports and services were required to enhance and address the educational programming needs for students with vision loss in Alberta.

In May 2008, Education Minister Dave Hancock announced new funding of \$9.3 million over three years to enhance supports for students with vision loss in Alberta through the Students with Vision Loss Initiative (SVLI). The Minister outlined a number of recommendations with outcomes and measures that would build capacity in Alberta's education system to better meet the needs of students with vision loss (please see below).

The Inclusive Learning Supports Branch (formerly Special Education Branch), Learning Resources Centre (LRC) and Learner Assessment Sector of Alberta Education have worked collaboratively in the coordination and leadership of this initiative. However, the key accomplishments of this work could not have been achieved without the support of stakeholders (see Appendix 1). Their ongoing work and commitment to students who are blind or visually impaired has made a significant impact on the success of this initiative. Together through collaboration, the ministry and its stakeholders supported these students' success.

This summary report outlines the key accomplishments of this initiative, as well as lessons learned and stakeholder feedback on the success of the project.

What Recommendations Guided the Work?

- Increase and improve student access to teachers of the visually impaired, especially in rural areas.
- Provide sustainable funding to improve student access to the special equipment loan service, including training.
- Improve the accessibility of provincial examinations and learning resources.
- Improve student's timely access to learning resources in alternate format (braille, large print, digital audio, electronic and digital text).
- Establish a provincial coordinator position to build capacity in the education system.

Recommendation One: Improve student access to teachers of the visually impaired, especially in rural areas.

Key Accomplishments:

- Support to the Vision Resource Centres (local school board-run consortia funded, in part, through the SVLI) in Calgary, Lethbridge and North (Edmonton) has resulted in more than 70 professional development opportunities/sessions provided on a variety of topics on education for students with vision loss. Twenty-five per cent of the participants were from rural jurisdictions. Sessions were offered in Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Stettler.
- Short-term programs that focused on teaching specific skills for students with vision loss, taught by trained teachers of the visually impaired, were offered at each of the Vision Resource Centers (VRCs). Enrollment in these programs has been over 300 in the past three years. Students with vision loss attended programs across the province in Calgary, Edmonton and area, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie, Stettler and Red Deer.
- In 2009, a teacher from Grande Prairie was hired as a vision consultant. Ongoing mentorship and training was provided to this teacher, resulting in increased service hours to students with vision loss in the northern tier of Alberta.
- Approximately \$1,000,000.00 in project funding was provided to the field to support the development of resources, training opportunities for professionals and programs for students with vision loss (see Appendix 2).
- In partnership with Alberta Children's Hospital, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) and Alberta Health Services, 15 travelling low vision clinics have been offered throughout the province.
- Summer Institutes for classroom teachers new to teaching students with visual impairments were held in August 2010, locations included Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie. A total of 73 educators participated in these institutes.

Recommendation Two: Provide sustainable funding and improve student access to the Special Equipment Loan Service, including training.

Key Accomplishments:

- Student wait lists have been eliminated and timely access to the equipment is being provided to schools and school authorities resulting in significant parent satisfaction. The total \$1,920,000 M purchase of student equipment for the LRC's student equipment loan service will provide students and school authorities' equitable access to the specialized equipment to support learning. The number of students accessing the loan service continues to grow.
- Seventy one percent of the loan equipment has online training modules which are posted on the Vision Education Alberta website at www.vision.alberta.ca. A total of 123 online training modules have been developed. They often represent the top five page views of the website. To

improve school staff's awareness, website bookmarks are included with the loan equipment delivered to schools.

- The Student Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (SATAC) was formed to advise on the student equipment (including purchases) and alternate format loan services. This advisory committee includes representatives from the LRC and the Inclusive Learning Supports Branch, and its stakeholders. The draft Student Specialized Equipment Loan Service Handbook, created by this Committee, will be reviewed by LRC staff to determine if it can be used in consideration of the possible resource to support inclusive education.
- The LRC loaned the Vision Resource Centres specialized equipment to support programming for students. This included the loan of a portable video conferencing suite to Vision Resource Centre Calgary to support training and capacity-building across the province. The equipment loan service also provided equipment to support student assistive technology assessments and demonstrations for the Travelling Low-Vision Clinic.

Recommendation Three: Provide accommodations at the development stage for student learning resources and provincial examinations.

Key Accomplishments:

- A Vision Specialist was seconded to support Learner Assessment with student accommodation and accessibility. This work included reviewing provincial examinations to ensure that all test items provide fair and equitable access to students with vision loss.
- The Vision Specialist provided presentations for Learner Assessment examination managers that focused on increasing their general awareness of students who are blind or visually impaired related to their educational needs and another on the development of scripting notes.
- The Vision Specialist provided presentations to vision consultants and school districts staff on the process of supporting students' full participation in provincial examinations.
- The Vision Specialist participated in the review of provincial exams at the development stage and during braille production to ensure accessibility by students with vision loss. A total of 66 (89% of the exams produced in braille) provincial exams were reviewed. This enables full participation by students in the Grades 3, 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests and Grade 12 Diploma Exams. The Learning Resources Centre staff continues to work closely with Learner Assessment staff on improving accessibility for all provincial exams.
- Feedback from stakeholders indicates that accessibility of content of provincial exams for students with vision loss has improved.

Recommendation Four: Improve students' timely access to learning resources in alternate format.

Key Accomplishments:

- Improved curriculum staff and content producers awareness of the accessibility and accommodations needs associated with alternate format production, including timely access to digital files to enhance production of Alberta authorized student resources.
- LRC's Braille Services Review, streamlined operations including identifying a coordinator for contract work (30% of production), reducing administration and improving timely delivery to students. Students received their braille resources on time, which addressed an area of serious concern for stakeholders.
- New production equipment and technology purchased totaling \$595,200, increased efficiencies and optimized production capacity.
- The alternate format services review, with SATAC stakeholder input, will be analyzed in consideration of the Action on Curriculum and Action on Inclusion implementation plans.
- The LRC initiated alternate format production of Alberta authorized student resources in anticipation of school requests. There has been a 60% increase to production based on forecasting school production requests. This also eliminated the need for schools districts to incur extra time and effort in making requests for production. Over the three-year initiative, 239 titles were produced, based on the LRC forecasting process. In total, 8,599 titles represented by 25,501 volumes were loaned to schools for students with vision loss.
- Stakeholders reported an overall improvement in access to both authorized and unauthorized resources in alternate format. They felt that this has been the result of increased capacity and improved efficiencies with production technology upgrades at the LRC and the funding of SVLI projects that supported the production and timely access to locally authorized or unauthorized materials. They also cited the Digital Textbook Repository for Students with Special Education Needs as a valuable resource for low vision students.
- Vision Resource Centres and the Wetaskiwin Public School Division were supported to provide locally authorized and unauthorized resources in alternate format. There have been approximately 230 different resources produced by these projects. This also reduced the pressure for production by the LRC whose priorities are braille provincial examination and Alberta authorized student learning resources loaned to schools across Alberta for use by students with vision loss.
- Vision Resource Centres in Calgary, South and North offered workshops on braille production, CoreIDRAW for the production of tactile graphics and Duxbury braille translation software. This included LRC Braille Services staff providing CoreIDRAW training workshops for school authority staff. This contributed towards building capacity in braille production across the province.
- The Digital Textbook Repository for Students with Special Education Needs was used widely by students with vision loss to access Alberta authorized student basic resources (grades 4-12) in

digital format. Students' access to digital textbooks is contributing to a decrease in the number of school requests for hard copy large print textbooks.

Recommendation Five: Establish a provincial co-ordinator position to build capacity in the education system.

Key Accomplishments:

- A Provincial Co-ordinator position was established in September 2008 and has accomplished the following:
 - Established a Provincial Advisory Committee that includes stakeholders and Alberta Education representatives.
 - Chaired regular meetings (at least two per year in Calgary and Edmonton) with professionals (i.e., individuals, agencies, school districts and post-secondary institutions) providing services to students with vision loss.
 - Co-ordinated and facilitated collaboration of the work of the Vision Resource Centres.
 - Co-ordinated the development of the Vision Education Alberta website (www.vision.alberta.ca), which provides resources, information and learning tools to build the capacity of students with vision loss and their learning teams. This website is accessed by over 700 Albertans monthly.
 - Worked in partnership with Alberta Children's Hospital; Alberta Health Services and CNIB to establish the Travelling Low Vision Clinic for Children pilot project. Fifteen clinics were held across the province.
 - Co-ordinated provincial training opportunities to bring vision loss experts to support training for learning teams in Alberta. They included Dr. Christine Roman, Cortical Visual Impairment; Dr. Dennis Fauntin, Accessible Science for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired; Dr. Karen Wolffe, Successful Transition and Career Planning for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired.
 - Organized and coordinated on behalf of Alberta Education, the Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference, held October 2009, for the first time in Alberta. This conference featured national and international speakers, attendees from across Canada and the United States.

What We Heard about the Students with Vision Loss Initiative

In September 2010, Applications Management Consulting conducted an evaluation on the work of the Initiative to June 2010, as well a stakeholder consultation was held in November 2010. Recommendations based on feedback are provided for consideration.

Feedback Included:

- Stakeholders reported that increased funding to support student specialized equipment loan service at the Learning Resources Centre has resulted in significant improvement to access of this necessary equipment. Waitlists for equipment have been eliminated.

Recommendation – That a provincial loan service for specialized equipment continue to be supported by Alberta Education.

- Teachers, vision specialists, parents and others felt a significant contribution of the Students with Vision Loss Initiative has been its success in creating partnerships and collaboration among the various groups who provide services to students who are blind or visually impaired. This has helped to maximize scarce resources.

Recommendation – Continue to build on the partnerships that have been formed through the project and to work towards implementing long term system improvements. The collaborative model that has been created can help to inform the building of partnerships to support other students with low incidence disabilities.

- Stakeholders highly value the programs for professionals and students that are offered through the Vision Resource Centres. They felt that they have contributed to increasing capacity throughout the province.

Recommendation – Although programs at the VRCs are an important component in building capacity, stakeholders reported that there is still a critical need to increase the access to vision specialists (teachers of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialists) at the local level and especially in rural areas.

- Two of the Students with Vision Loss Initiative projects were frequently mentioned as being valuable and very beneficial to students in rural areas. The Travelling Low Vision Clinics, that provides assessment and resources for students with low vision and the Northwest Mentoring Project that provided mentorship and training for a teacher of the visually impaired in the Northern Tier of Alberta.

Recommendation – Continue to provide programs as well as supports and services closer to students who are blind or visually impaired in their communities in rural Alberta.

- Stakeholders who had students writing exams felt that there has been an improvement in the tests quality for students. Groups felt that the role of the Vision Specialist has raised awareness of needs of students with vision loss at Learner Assessment.

Recommendation – It is important that the students with vision loss have fair and equitable access to all test items enabling their full participation in provincial exams and testing.

- Stakeholders reported an overall improvement in access to both authorized and unauthorized resources in alternate format. They felt that this has been the result of increased capacity and improved efficiencies with production technology upgrades at the LRC and the funding of SVLI projects that supported the production and timely access to locally authorized or unauthorized materials. They also cited the Digital Textbook Repository for Students with Special Education Needs as a valuable resource for low vision students.

Recommendation – Timely access to all materials in the required format is critical to the success of students who are blind or visually impaired. Continue to support projects that provide the production of alternate format materials (especially the locally authorized). Find a way to share resources that have already been produced to reduce duplication of effort. Ensure that LRC is responsive to these students' timely access to alternate format, especially braille format for Alberta authorized student resources. Build on the Digital Textbook Repository for Students with Special Education Needs as this is a valuable resource.

Conclusion

Alberta Education is committed to transforming the education system through *Action Agenda 2011 – 14*. A key item is the *Action on Inclusion* initiative. The goal of *Action on Inclusion* is to ensure that all children and students are valued and can access educational and social supports. The goal of an inclusive education system is to provide all students with the most appropriate learning environments and opportunities for them to best achieve their potential.

The Students with Vision Loss Initiative has resulted in improving supports and services for students with vision loss in Alberta. Work has been undertaken in the last three year to address all of the recommendations established by the Minister of Education. Much of the work that stakeholders indicated as critical has been supported through the transition process to a new inclusive education system (see Appendix 3) for the 2011-12 school year.

The *Action on Inclusion* implementation plan will develop a continuum of supports and services that will support the learning needs of all students, including those who are blind or visually impaired. This transformation will continue to require support and input from all stakeholders. Through collaboration and partnership we will strive to ensure that students who are blind or visually impaired in Alberta reach their full potential and are successful.

Appendix 1 Students with Vision Loss Initiative Committee Membership

Provincial Advisory Committee

- College of Alberta School Superintendents
- Alberta Teachers' Association
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
- Alberta School Boards Association
- Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired
- Vision Resource Centres
- Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta
- Federation of Francophone School Boards of Alberta
- Alberta School Councils Association
- Learning Resources Centre – Alberta Education
- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch – Alberta Education

Student Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (SATAC)

- Field representatives from the Regional Educational Consulting Services (RECS) or Vision Resource Centres.
- College of Alberta School Superintendents
- Alberta Teachers' Association
- Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta
- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch – Alberta Education
- Learning Resources Centre – Alberta Education

Appendix 2 Students with Vision Loss Initiative Projects

Accessible Science Project (Vision Resource Centre – North): The Accessible Science project provided the purchase of specially designed laboratory equipment that allowed students with vision loss to become active participants in high school science courses (chemistry, biology, physics and science). Each of the Vision Resource Centres has a set of the equipment that they may loan to schools. Professional development and training has been provided for classroom teachers, vision specialists and educational assistants. The project provided ongoing support for science teachers in adapting their laboratory work. Additionally, the project has;

- Developed a resource; Accessible Science Labs: Example Experiments for Junior and Senior High Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired (to be posted on Vision Education Alberta).
- Provided support for the development of on-line training modules for all of the Accessible Science Equipment on the website.
- Presented at the Science Teachers' Specialist Council Conference in May 2010.
- Developed a prototype of an accessible periodic table, which is now being tested.

Vision Resource Centre Calgary - Short Term Programs: Vision Resource Centre Calgary has developed short term programs for all students with vision loss from ECS to grade 12. These programs cover a format of 1 - 5 days. Prior to the Students with Vision Loss Initiative, these programs were offered at a fee to students from outside of the Calgary Board of Education; through this project, all students in Alberta can attend these programs free of charge. The Vision Resource Centre Calgary team will also offer these workshops off-site at other locations as requested. All three Vision Resource Centres (Calgary, North and South) will continue to be supported through a conditional grant for the 2011-12 school year.

Children's Travelling Low Vision Clinics: Students with Vision Loss Initiative, in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, initiated the travelling low vision clinics for children in 2008. The clinic team consists of a paediatric ophthalmologist and optometrist who provide eye health exams. Trained teachers of the visually impaired assess students' use of assistive technology and optical aides, which will improve their access to curriculum content and their community environment. A lending library funded by the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation provides optical aides to ensure students can leave the clinic with the tools that they require. Assistive technology is available for loan through the Learning Resources Centre of Alberta Education. The Students with Vision Loss Initiative funding supports the coordination of the clinics as well as the participation of educational vision specialists. To date fifteen clinics have been held in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Fort McMurray, Barrhead, Calgary and Grande Prairie and over 100 students have been seen. Through conditional grants to RECS teams, Education will continue to be partners in this valuable service to students with vision loss for the 2011-2012 year.

Mentorship of a Teacher of the Visually Impaired in Northern Alberta - REACH/ERECS/CASE (Regional Educational Consulting Teams): The project aims to build specialized skills of a teacher/consultant of the blind or visually impaired in training. The Northern region was targeted as a rural area that did not have ready access to vision specialists. A local teacher was identified to act in the vision consultant role under the guidance and mentorship of ERECS and REACH (Regional

Consulting Teams in Southern and Northern Alberta) team members. This has resulted in an increase to service hours for students in the northern tier by 20%. The teacher in training will be completing her Masters in Education for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired in 2012. Ongoing support for this additional service is continuing to be being made possible through a conditional grant to CASE team in Grande Prairie for 2011-12 school year.

Tech Treks - Elk Island Public Schools: Direct weekly instruction, after school, on adaptive technology to students with visual impairments by certified teachers and supported by tutors/mentors who are themselves visually impaired. The two years of the Tech Treks project was a success for all involved. The concept was highly endorsed for meeting a gap in programming, and the benefits were far-reaching as it connected children, families, and staff. Students made friends, learned and practiced new skills throughout the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), and experienced independence and success. They were supported by peers who related to their experiences and a staff who understood their learning needs. This program will continue to be supported through Elk Island Public Schools and a conditional grant from Alberta Education for the 2011-12 school year.

Nemeth Instruction - Edmonton Regional Education Consulting Service (ERECS): Courses were offered in Nemeth code (mathematics braille code) in the areas of elementary math, secondary math and Chemistry/Physics. Courses were offered face-to-face and by video conference for out of town participants. Three courses were offered, which resulted in a total of 32 participants. This course was offered again in the 2010 - 2011 school year.

Early Mathematics Literacy for Preschoolers Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (Ages 2 ½ - 5 years): A research referenced project, which links mathematics and literacy; it includes the development of five kits and accompanying manual with goals, activities and strategies. The kits are available for loan from Vision Resource Centres; ERECS; REACH and CASE (Grande Prairie). The entire manual is available for download from Vision Education Alberta.

<http://www.vision.alberta.ca/resources/adaptingprograms/math.aspx> . In the fall of 2010, four professional development workshops were held in Calgary, Lethbridge, Edmonton and Grande Prairie, which supported the implementation of this resource.

Access to Electronic Board Notes for Students with Low Vision, VRC – North: The first part of the project included the establishment of student eligibility guidelines, the development of parental and school permission forms, research regarding the range of possible solutions for viewing access, purchase of hardware and software, development of an off-site server and creation of an online data collection tool. The second part of the project involved setting-up systems in schools and the provision of training to teachers and students participating in the project. Feedback for this project was solicited through an online survey. The project team has developed a resource for Vision Education Alberta and has offered workshops on how to make these tools more accessible for students with vision loss. For online resource please see <http://www.vision.alberta.ca/media/86477/access%20to%20board%20notes.pdf> .

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Braille Production Project: Production of Braille resources that are non-basic (Alberta Education authorized) and locally authorized or teacher made resources. This service is available to all Alberta school authorities. Priority has been given to those jurisdictions that have limited or no support for Braille transcription. Requests can be made by schools or vision specialists directly to the district. Production for 2009 – 2010 consisted of 1004

pages of braille (all subjects) as well as over 50 titles of early literacy books. Production counts for 2010-11 are still pending. Through a conditional grant, Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools will continue to provide Braille transcription support for those jurisdictions that have limited or no Braille transcription support.

Braille and More, VRC Calgary: Production of alternate format resources that are non-basic (Alberta Education authorized) resources. These titles, once produced, will be available to all Alberta school authorities. A short term program on braille literacy was held at the Vision Centre Calgary. Production for 2009 – 2010 consisted of 31 titles for junior/senior high and 81 titles for elementary. Production counts for 2010-11 are still pending. Through a conditional grant the Vision Resource Centre Calgary will continue to support the Braille transcription needs of other districts; priority will be given to those jurisdictions that have limited or no braille transcription support.

ABC's of Success, Calgary Catholic School District: Teacher tested, age appropriate, and skill-specific literature and activities that engage the teaching and learning process in both the school and home. These relevant and challenging activities provide children with daily opportunities to read, write, and engage in literature as they reinforce their skills within the expanded core curriculum. This resource is meant to be a natural supplement to the K - 3 curriculum that is easily integrated in classrooms and home activities. The resource will be available on the Vision Education Alberta website before the end of the 2010 - 2011 school year.

Equitable Access to Literacy (REACH): The development of a variety of resources to assist emerging learners, including those with multiple disabilities in the development of literacy skills. A four part literacy project presentation was provided during January and February, 2010. A PowerPoint presentation has been developed and will be posted on Vision Education Alberta. Accessible books (power point; tactile books and twin vision books) have been developed and are on loan through Vision Resource Centre South.

Appendix 3 2011/2012 Transition Activities for the Students with Vision Loss Initiative

Staff

Secondments have been extended for 2011/2012:

- Roy McConnell, Senior Education Manager, is seconded by LRC and his work will include, support for LRC programs and services, continued work with Learner Assessment to support full participation of students in provincial examinations and partnership with ILSB (Inclusive Learning Supports Branch) to support various aspects of continuing work.
- Pam Rannelli, Senior Education Manager, is seconded by Inclusive Learning Supports Branch, and her role will expand to include support and coordination of projects related to supporting services for students with low incidence disabilities.

Provincial Collaboration

- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch through conditional grants will continue support to the Vision Resource Centres (VRC) in Calgary, South and North.
- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch through conditional grants, will support the braille production of locally authorized resources. Wetaskiwin School Division and Vision Resource Centre Calgary will continue to support school authorities throughout the province by producing locally authorized materials. A protocol has been put in place to provide more seamless sharing or alternate resources produced province wide, reduce the risk of duplication of effort.
- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch through a conditional grant to the Grande Prairie Assessment team (RECS), will support a trained teacher of the visually impaired on their team. This VI consultant serves students in the Northern region of Alberta.
- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch through a conditional grant will continue to support Elk Island Public School district to run Tech Trek Program- an afterschool program for students in the Edmonton and surrounding area.
- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch, through conditional grants to the RECs teams, will continue to support the partnership with Alberta Health for the Children's Travelling Low Vision Clinics. Goal is to offer 7 clinics province wide.

Access to Supports and Services

- LRC staff will continue to work with Learner Assessment to build their capacity in providing accessible achievement and diploma exams for students with vision loss.
- LRC student special equipment loan program will continue to provide assistive technology to students. It does not anticipate any waiting lists during 2011/2012 for equipment. LRC is exploring provincial licensing agreements for specialized software.
- LRC will continue to provide students' timely access to Alberta authorized student basic resources in alternate format. At present all school requests for basic authorized materials in alternate format will be ready for beginning of the school year.

Professional Development

- VRC North will be coordinating provincial PD on building capacity around Orientation and Mobility for students with vision loss .
- VRC Calgary will be coordinating provincial PD around successful transitions for students with vision loss (2011) and Supporting and Enhancing Literacy Skills for students with vision loss (2012).
- Vision Education Alberta website will continue to be developed with new content and serve as an information and resource sharing online tool. This website will transition to be part of a broader website that will support low incidence disabilities and inclusive education.
- Classroom Teacher Summer Symposiums will continue in partnership with Grande Prairie Assessment team. Three, one day summer symposiums will be held around the province for classroom teachers who are new to having students with vision loss in their classrooms. These sessions will be held in August.
- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch in partnership with Minerva Centre for Deaf Education, University of Alberta, will build capacity around serving students who are deafblind, through an institute scheduled for summer 2012.
- Inclusive Learning Supports Branch will coordinate a visit from Dr. J. Van Dijk, a world renowned expert in working with students who are deaf blind. In the fall of 2011, he will provide two days of presentations on assessment and strategies for working with students who are deaf blind to educators and consultants.

Research

- ERECS (RECS team) has been supported with a conditional grant to explore the use of mobile tablets for students with low incidence disabilities in the inclusive classroom. Research will explore the how do the devices support differentiated instruction, accessibility of materials and enhance socialization and communication skills of students.