

## **Proposal for Satellite Support Classrooms for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

There are approximately seven students from the Greater St. John's Area who require Satellite Classrooms with Full-Time Teachers of the Deaf and Student Assistants who are proficient in ASL. These students have significant language delays based on observation, informal and formal assessment. **These students' needs CANNOT be met on the Itinerant Teachers' caseloads. They require intensive language and communication support in a specialized classroom with qualified Teachers of the Deaf.**

These students are presently receiving other supports such as IRT support, Student Assistants, special transportation, SLP, AVT, and Itinerant Services. Even with all of this support in place, these students are **NOT** able to access the regular curriculum outcomes. The support is fragmented and delivered by many people who are not trained to work with Students who are Deaf. These students are not making significant gains and the language/communication/academic/social gaps are getting larger and will continue to do so. The children who are learning Sign Language are making gains but with a Full-Time Teacher of the Deaf using Total Communication in a smaller classroom setting, these students could potentially experience more success with this Total Communication Approach. Given that the Satellite Classrooms will be located in a school within the St. John's Area, these students will have opportunities to be included in school activities and may be able to transition into some of their Grade level academic classes. This will be determined on an individual basis.

As this model has already been established at the McDonald Drive Junior High and Gonzaga High Schools, we ask you to please consider a Satellite Support Classroom as a Pilot for the upcoming 2017-18 school year in one of the Primary/Elementary Schools in St. John's.