

# NC DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

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<b>Section:</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Transition Technology Loan Program Guidelines</b>
<b>Current Effective Date:</b>	<b>06/08</b>
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This program has been established to give high school students who are visually impaired an opportunity to try out different Assistive Technologies such as, Braille note-takers and Global Positioning System (GPS). It is felt that students who are going on to college or employment after graduation, will have an opportunity to develop skills to be better prepared and to assess their skills in being able to use these types of devices successfully.

A Transition Technology Loan Program has been established for the Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) transition students, to include training and a referral process.

Assistive Technology designated for the loan program will include: 2 Braille Notes with GPS software, 2 PACmates, 2 Maestro with Trekker GPS.

Oversight for the equipment will be the responsibility of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program Specialist with Transition responsibilities.

Loan of the equipment will be made from September 1st to June 1st of any school year. (Exceptions to these dates can be made upon review by the Vocational Rehabilitation Program Specialist with Transition responsibilities).

During the months of July and August this Assistive Technology will be utilized at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind (RBC) for the Summer Transition Programs.

The loan period for any of this Assistive Technology can be up to a maximum of four months but these months may not be consecutive if they fall June 2nd to August 31st.

Eligibility criteria for the Transition Technology Loan Program will be established as follows:

- A student must be currently receiving services from one of the DSB Transition Programs, (If a student is not currently residing in an area where DSB has a Transition Program, then an exception can be made at the discretion of the student's Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and the Vocational Rehabilitation Program Specialist with Transition responsibilities).
- must be attending high school,
- must be planning on attending college/university or obtaining full-time employment after graduation.

A student must demonstrate the following skills to be considered for the loan of a Braille note-taker:

- must know contracted Braille,
- must read on a fourth grade level, at a minimum,
- must have good computer skills.

A Student must demonstrate these skills to be considered for the loan of a Braille Note with GPS:

- must know contracted Braille,
- must be able to travel independently and cross intersections with a minimum of assistance,
- must have good problem solving skills,

- must have good computer skills.

A student must demonstrate the following skills to be considered for the loan of Trekker with GPS:

- must be able to travel independently and cross intersections with a minimum of assistance,
- must have good problem solving skills,
- must have good computer skills.

A Transition Technology Loan Agreement (On-Line DSB-4056-VR Transition Technology Loan Agreement with instructions) must be completed and signed by the student, the parent or guardian, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor before the equipment is given to the student.

Once a student has been found eligible to use a particular piece of Assistive Technology and the necessary forms have been signed, then the student should receive training from an Assistive Technology Consultant for the note-takers and an Orientation and Mobility Instructor for the GPS systems.