agenda for consideration. School district staff should ensure parents understand the purpose of the PERCD and should keep parents informed at each step of the referral process.

A checklist of the steps in referring a student to the PERCD, including the process for an appeal of a decision of the committee, is available at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/#Deaf/Hard

How are parents kept informed about the PERCD and its decisions?

It is important to remember that referrals to the PERCD are not accepted from schools, parents, or students.

School districts are responsible for keeping parents informed about the purpose of the PERCD and the parents role as guests at committee meetings. Parents often attend committee meetings to provide information about their child but are not present for committee discussion to determine eligibility.

Parents or guardians who may be interested in a provincial resource program for their child should first communicate with local school district staff regarding their child’s education program. School district staff should discuss with parents the services they are able to make available for deaf and hard of hearing students in the district.

The district is also responsible for informing parents of the PERCD meetings and committee decisions and providing them with a copy of the letter that conveys the decision to the district superintendent of schools.

How can school districts contact the PERCD?

The secretariat for the Provincial Review Committee for Deaf students can be reached at:

**PERCD Secretariat**

Provincial Outreach Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

4446 Watling Street

Burnaby, BC V5J 5H3

Telephone: (604) 664-8300

TTY: (604) 664-8304

Facsimile: (604) 664-8308
### What is the mandate of the Provincial Review Committee for Deaf students (PERCD)?

The purpose of the committee is to:

- advise a school district regarding the educational needs of a student who is deaf or hard of hearing, and
- determine a student’s eligibility for admission to or retention in any of the provincial resource programs for deaf or hard of hearing students.

This eligibility status lasts for two years.

Students are only eligible for a provincial resource program for deaf or hard of hearing students if the district is not able to provide a program that meets the needs of the student. For a list of the criteria that PERCD uses, see: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/#Deaf/Hard](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/#Deaf/Hard).

If the committee determines a student is eligible on an interim basis, it then reviews the interim placement and determines eligibility at the end of the interim period.

PERCD may also recommend to the school district a specific provincial resource program that best meets the needs of a student.

Even if a student is deemed eligible, the school district and parents may still decide not to enrol the student in a provincial resource program.

Placement for eligible students may take time, particularly if the relevant provincial resource program does not have adequate resources. Enrolment may be delayed until the following school year.

### Where are the provincial resource programs for deaf students?

When the needs of a deaf or hard of hearing student cannot be met locally or regionally, or where special circumstances prevail, students may be referred by a school district for consideration for eligibility to a provincial resource program. The Ministry funds three school districts to provide highly specialized education programs and services for deaf or hard of hearing students. The PERCD determines eligibility for the enrolling programs provided by School District No. 41 (Burnaby) and School District No. 35 (Langley).

The PERCD does not determine eligibility for cochlear implant outreach or auditory training equipment provided through School District No. 47 (Powell River).

Eligible students who live a considerable distance from the provincial resource program may qualify for accommodation in the Victory Hill Residence run by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Parents can find out more about the residence application process from the enrolling school.

### What is the make-up of the Provincial Education Review Committee for Deaf students?

The committee is appointed by the Ministry of Education. Membership includes representatives from:

- school districts that host provincial resource programs for deaf and hard of hearing students,
- Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, hearing loss team,
- Ministry of Children and Families, Victory Hill residential program, and
- others appointed by the Ministry of Education, usually a person who is deaf with expertise in education.

The PERCD is chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Education, who is also a voting member of the committee.

Referring school district representatives are invited as guests by the committee to present information, including the district’s rationale for referring and why they cannot meet the needs of the student.

The Provincial Outreach Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students acts as the secretariat for the committee. The secretariat receives student referral applications from school districts, corresponds with school districts regarding student referrals, and prepares agendas and summaries of student information for the consideration of the committee.

### How is a referral made to the PERCD?

School districts must formally contact the secretariat in order to initiate a referral to the committee for consideration of eligibility.

District staff must make sure that all necessary information has been provided to the secretariat before the student will be placed on a PERCD