



*Creating customized learning plans to meet
the needs of tomorrow's work force.*

Lori Leach, Ph.D

**Apprenticeship and
Occupational Certification**

Government of New Brunswick

Lori.leach@gnb.ca



NB's Model of Support

Background

2012: NB scored below the national average for both literacy and numeracy (PIAAC 2012):

- 54% possessed literacy skills at level 2 or below
 - 63% with below level 2 numeracy
-

2012: Introduced Learning Strategist Model to address the number of clients who were being left behind

- Staff dedicated to learning supports
-

2015 Study

- "Analysis and Validation of AOCs Learning Strategist Model in NB" (funded by OLES)
-

2019 Research Project

- "Virtual Learning Strategist" Expansion of Model to Other Provinces: NS, PEI, SK, YK (funded by OLES)

IP PASS RATE COMPARISON



IP Pass Rate	National	New Brunswick
2020	54%	83%
2019	61%	84%
2018	61%	81%
2017	55%	84%

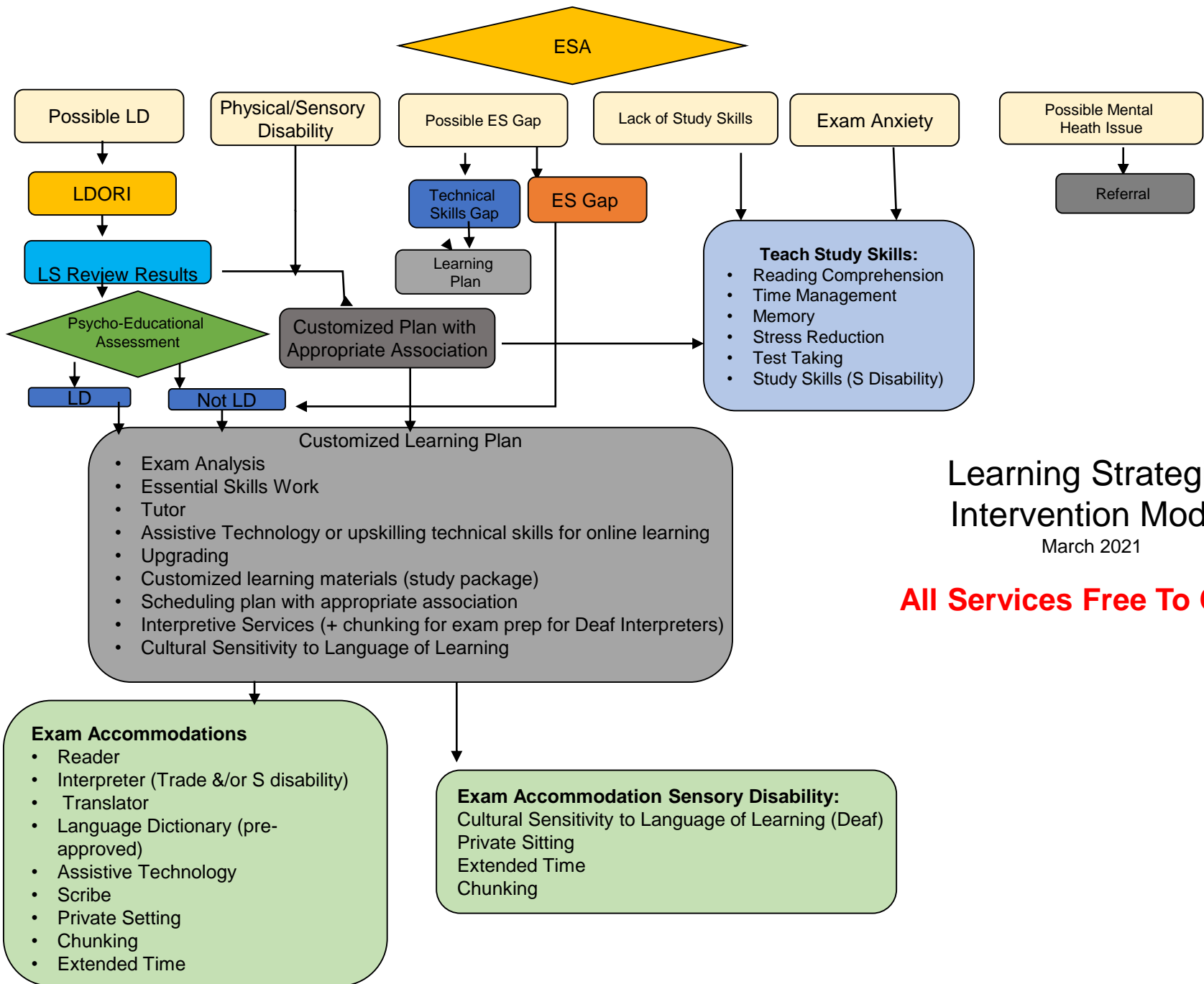


VLS PROGRAM

Taking the LS model online and across the country thanks to OLES

- ✓ NB
- ✓ NS
- ✓ SK
- ✓ PEI
- ✓ YK
- ✓ NFLD
- ✓ NWT
- ✓ NU





Learning Strategist Intervention Model

March 2021

All Services Free To Client

Technologies

- iPad or Chromebook provided
- Text-to-speech app called “Voice Dream”, a note taking app called “Notability”
- MP3 Players: Using this technology increases the user’s sense of freedom to repeat a question, where, with traditional readers, they may feel embarrassed to ask for a question to be repeated. Freedom with this reader technology translates to less exam stress and self-consciousness, which translates to a better exam sitting experience
- VLS Portal offers clients free online storage of all their customized learning materials
- Online tutoring



Essential Skills Assessment (ESA)

The ESA was developed by New Brunswick's Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification to measure whether a learner has an essential skills gap in the top 4 essential skills associated with the top 10 skilled trades in Canada.

Electrical Family ESA5 includes science.

It is mandatory for all newly registered apprentices in NB.

It is an online, self-paced, multiple choice assessment with non-trade specific questions.

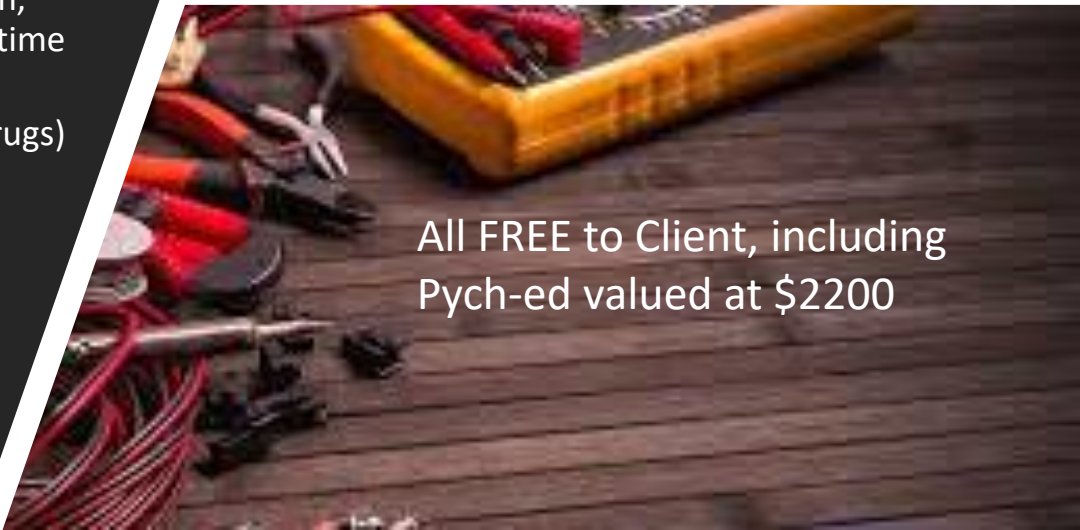
The ESA has built-in accessibility features.

Apprentices scoring below 70% are referred to a Learning Strategist.



LDORI

- Informal online assessment as indicator of possible LD
- Consists of 83 short, easy, close-ended questions and should be completed in less than 60 minutes
- 7 Domains:
 - LD General
 - Other Learning Challenges (ADHD)
 - Written Expression or Written Production
 - Reading
 - Math
 - Executive Functions (memory, organization, planning, social skills, perspective taking, time management, etc.)
 - Lifestyle and Health (motivation, use of drugs)
- Clients respond to a 3 point Likert scale: No, Sometimes/Maybe, Yes
- Point system generates results:
 - Unlikely any risk of LD
 - Low, med or high risk of LD



All FREE to Client, including
Psych-ed valued at \$2200

STATISTICAL PROOF

Five Years:
(2015/01/01 –
2020/01/01)

Total of 5820 new
NB apprentices

- 30% of NB new apprentices require LS supports (n=1772)
- 27% of new apprentices who completed the ESA have an ES gap (n=443)*
- 83.5% (n=370) of those identified with ES gap by ESA also do our LDORI and are referred for psycho-educational assessment. 80% (n=297) of those received a confirmed diagnosis



VLS Expansion: Digital Literacy Assessment

As many apprenticeship authorities scramble to move to an online technical training platform as a result of COVID 19.

We know that not all apprentices are prepared or comfortable to learn in a blended or on-line learning format. As long as there is a willingness to try, appropriate technology, and bandwidth, learning online can be an effective alternative to traditional learning methods.

VLS extends to offer online learning support system to model aimed at preventing potential apprenticeship online learning barriers.

VLS Holistic Model of Support



[VLS Main - VLS Portal](#)

vlscanada.ca



Combined Research Results For All Jurisdictions:

- Identified deficits:
 - ~30% Dx LD/ADHD
 - ~15% Essential Skills gaps (Average ESA scores across provinces = 60% - 66%)
 - ~6% Study skills gaps or exam-related anxiety
- Enacted supports:
 - ~20% tutoring
 - ~30% Exam accommodations
 - ~10% Self-directed study
 - Most receive study skills training

As of February 2021

*From a tiny acorn
A mighty oak will grow!*



Questions?
Thank you