

Vision Services – Eligibility Criteria

Based on the State Standards and Regulations for Special Education, the definition of the need for services from a Program for Students with Visual Impairments is one that indicates the student has a visual impairment that adversely affects his/her academic performance. For the purposes of this program, the following indicate a need for support in the school setting.

- ❖ Blindness or a visual impairment that necessitates the need for Braille, Large Print and other appropriate adaptations or assistive devices for the student to access the regular school district curriculum. A visual impairment refers to central visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye with the best possible correction or a visual field of 20 degrees or less.
- ❖ Any optically or medically diagnosable condition of the eyes or visual system which affects the structure and functioning of that system that results in less than normal vision and interferes with development or adversely affects educational performance.
- ❖ An impairment in vision that may be treated with vision therapy and one that is a function of a perceptual deficit is NOT an impairment that can be addressed through the Blind/Visually Impaired Support Program when the corrected acuities of that student fall within the normal range (i.e., 20/20, 20/25 and 20/30 with full fields). An optometric vision therapist, occupational therapist or a reading specialist, not a teacher of the visually impaired, best serves a student with visual perception or visual motor dysfunction resulting solely in a learning disability. The Blind/Visually Impaired Support Program only employs teachers of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialists.
- ❖ Final eligibility for the provision of services is determined through examination of information from either an ophthalmologist's or optometrist's eye report and an educational functional vision evaluation which will assist the multidisciplinary team in determining the student's need for vision support in school.