



REFERRAL FOR RELATED SERVICES: VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SERVICES

Please complete this page and include with referral packet.

Student: _____ District Representative Initiating Referral: _____

District: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

STEP 1: LEA Representative Determines Appropriateness of Referral (please initial):

_____ Description of Visual Impairment, Eligibility Procedures, and Services (see page 2) have been reviewed and referral determined to be appropriate.

STEP 2: Compile Referral Packet to include the following (please initial):

- _____ Student Information Form (see attached)
- _____ Current (within one year of referral) report from physician, preferably an ophthalmologist, documenting presence of vision condition consistent with the definition of Visual Impairment.
- _____ Signed Consent to Exchange information (between district and COE)
- _____ Signed Consent to Exchange information (between COE and optometrist / ophthalmologist)
- _____ Current psychoeducational evaluation (if this is an initial evaluation, psychoeducational and VI evaluations may be conducted concurrently. Assessment plan should identify other members of the multidisciplinary team participating in the evaluation)
- _____ Current IEP or 504 plan (not required if Vision Referral is part of an initial, comprehensive evaluation for special education services)
- _____ Signed Assessment Plan, date stamped when received by district (assessment plan should not be signed until all of the above documents have been collected – 60 day clock begins when Assessment Plan is received by district).

STEP 3: Referral Packet Sent to Related Services

_____ Send complete packet ***WITHIN five (5) days of receiving signed assessment plan*** to:
SMCOE RELATED SERVICES, ATTN: REFERRALS, 65 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA. 94402

SMCOE USE ONLY:

Date Referral Received: _____

ACTION REGARDING REFERRAL:

_____ **ACCEPTED:** Assigned VI LEAD Evaluator: _____

_____ **NOT ACCEPTED / RETURNED TO DISTRICT** due to missing documents (see notes below) or insufficient time to complete assessment

NOTES:

_____ Referral packet is missing documents

_____ Assessment could not be completed: insufficient time

Date referring party notified of action: _____



REFERRAL FOR RELATED SERVICES:

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

OVERVIEW

Visual Impairment services are provided to support students who have a documented Visual Impairment as defined in education code as follows: *Visual Impairment, including blindness, means an impairment in vision that even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.* C.F.R. 300.7 (13)

ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES:

Teacher of the Visually Impaired, in collaboration with a multidisciplinary evaluation team, conducts a functional vision evaluation which includes a review of medical information, formal and informal tests of visual functioning and the determination of the implications of the visual impairment on the educational and curricular needs of the child. Relevant information to be considered includes a written report of an eye examination by either an ophthalmologist or optometrist which documents the presence of one or more of the following conditions:

- Partially Sighted: The student's visual acuity in the better eye, after the best correction, is between 20/70 and 20/200.
- Legally Blind: Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye after best correction with conventional spectacle lenses, or visual acuity better than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the widest diameter of the visual field is no greater than 20 degrees.
- Blind: The student's visual impairment is so severe that for education purposes, vision cannot be used as a major channel of learning and the visual impairment, even with correction, adversely affects the individual's education.
- Reduced Visual Field to 50 degrees or less in better eye
- Other ocular pathologies that are permanent and irremediable.
- Cerebral / cortical visual impairment.
- A degenerative condition that is likely to result in a significant loss of vision in the future.

SERVICES: Services provided by a Teacher of Visually Impaired may include:

- Adaptation of learning material in an appropriate medium.
- Instruction in accessing an appropriate reading medium such as Braille, large print, and/or audio materials.
- Training in adaptive technology.
- Consultation with classroom teacher(s), and/or provision of appropriate assistance to enable the student to benefit from his/her primary educational placement.