



## REFERRAL FOR RELATED SERVICES: VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SERVICES

### 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 including 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. Information relevant to be considered includes a written report of an eye examination by either an ophthalmologist or optometrist documenting 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