



What Special Education Programs Are Available?

Visually Impaired Support Services

Visually Impaired services may be provided to a student who qualifies with an identified visual impairment and whose progress in the general education curriculum is impacted by their visual impairment. Visual impairments include disorders in the sense of vision that affect the central vision acuity, the field of vision, color perception, or binocular visual function.

Vision Support Services have the following roles and responsibilities:

Have primary responsibility for specialized instruction and services required to meet the unique educational needs of students with visual impairments.

Possess the skills and abilities necessary to provide and coordinate specialized instruction for students with visual impairments.

Assist the student, parents, special and general education teachers and paraprofessionals, and the student's sighted peers in:

- understanding the unique educational needs and learning characteristics of students with visual impairments,
- becoming aware of services and support available from local programs for students with visual impairments,
- acquiring information regarding local, state, and national resources for the education of students with visual impairment, and
- interpreting the students with visual impairments specific eye condition, the educational implications of the visual impairment, and the results of functional vision and learning media assessments.
- Consults regularly with the general education classroom teacher, other regular and special education personnel, parents, and others to coordinate programs and services for the student with a visual impairment.

Assure that large print or braille texts, supplementary materials, educational aids, and equipment needed by the student with a visual impairment, and the general education classroom teacher or special education teacher, are provided in a timely manner to ensure the student's maximum participation in all classroom activities.

Provide assistance to the general education classroom teacher and/or special education teacher in academic subjects and activities of the classroom that, as a direct result of the student's visual impairment, require adaptation for the student.

Provide initial and ongoing assessment:

- consults with assessment team to determine appropriate testing materials
- modifications needed
- assists with assessments when needed
- interprets assessment results when needed

Conduct functional vision/learning media assessments and produces written reports.

Attend IEP meetings for students with visual impairments.

Provide in-service training programs for school personnel and students and education for parents regarding the needs of students with visual impairments and adaptations and services for students with visual impairments.

Provide instruction in the development and maintenance of skills to meet the student's unique educational needs in the following areas, as indicated in the IEP:

- low vision and visual efficiency skills
- concept development & academic skills
- daily living skills
- career and vocational education skills
- communication skills (these skills include braille reading and writing as appropriate)
- social/emotional skills and abilities
- sensory motor skills
- technology