

Rule 6A-6.03014 is substantially rewritten to read: (See Florida Administrative Code for current text.)

6A-6.03014 ~~Special Programs for~~ Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Visually Impaired.

(1) Definition. Students who are visually impaired include the following:

(a) A student who is blind, has no vision, or has little potential for using vision.

(b) A student who has low vision.

(c) The term visual impairment does not include students who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual perceptual and/or visual motor difficulties.

(2) Activities Prior to Referral. Prior to referral for evaluation, the requirements in Rule 6A-6.0331, FAC, must be met.

(3) Procedures for student evaluation.

(a) The minimum procedures necessary for determining eligibility shall include:

1. A medical eye examination describing: etiology, diagnosis, treatment regimen, prognosis, near/distance, corrected/uncorrected acuity measures for left eye, right eye and both eyes, measure of field of vision, and recommendations for lighting levels, physical activity, aids, or use of glasses, as appropriate. For children birth to five (5) years of age or students who are otherwise unable to be assessed, a medical assessment describing visual functioning shall be documented when standard visual acuities and measure of field of vision are unattainable.

2. If a medical criterion listed in paragraph 4(a) of this rule is met, then in addition to the provisions of Rule 6A-6.0331, FAC., a comprehensive assessment of skills known to be impacted by visual impairment, shall include, but is not limited to: functional vision evaluation,

learning media assessment, and, if appropriate, orientation and mobility assessment.

(b) Reevaluation shall occur at least every three (3) years and shall include a minimum of a medical eye examination within the last calendar year, functional vision assessment, learning media assessment, and, if appropriate, any other formal evaluations addressed in the initial evaluation in accordance with Rule 6A-6.0331, FAC. The medical aspect of a reevaluation for students with bilateral anophthalmia may be waived by a written recommendation of a physician.

(4) Criteria for eligibility. A student is eligible for special education and related services if the following medical and educational criteria are met:

(a) Medical. A licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist has documented an eye condition that causes an impairment as manifested by at least one of the following:

1. A visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after best possible correction;

2. A peripheral field so constricted that it affects the student's ability to function in an educational setting;

3. A progressive loss of vision which may affect the student's ability to function in an educational setting, not including students who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual perceptual and/or visual motor difficulties, or,

4. For children birth to five (5) years of age or students who are otherwise unable to be assessed, bilateral lack of central, steady, or maintained fixation of vision with an estimated visual acuity of 20/70 or less after best possible correction; bilateral central scotoma involving the perimacula area (20/80-20/200); bilateral grade III, IV, or V Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP); or documented eye impairment as stated in paragraph (3)(a) of this rule.

(b) The student needs special education as defined in Rules 6A-6.0331 and 6A-6.03411,

FAC.

(5) Supportive services.

(a) The district shall make available the professional services needed to support the program. This shall include registration of all students who are visually impaired for services from the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired.

(b) Other support services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Provision of specialized textbooks, learning materials, assessment materials, and equipment; and

2. Cooperative planning with the Division of Blind Services, including parent involvement activities.

(6) This rule shall become effective March 1, 2008.

Specific Authority ~~1000.01~~, 1001.02, 1001.42(4)(l), 1003.01(3)(a), (b), 1003.55, 1003.57(1)—Law Implemented 1001.02, 1010.305(2), 1011.62(1)(c) FS. History—New 7-1-77, Amended 7-13-83, Formerly 6A-6.3014, Amended 2-12-91,

6A-6.03014 Special Programs for Students who are Visually Impaired.

(1) Visually impaired. Visual impairments are defined as disorders in the structure and function of the eye that, even with the best correction and treatment, interfere with learning.

(a) The blind student is one who after the best possible ocular correction has no vision or has little potential for using vision and relies on tactual or auditory senses for learning.

(b) The partially sighted student is one who after the best possible adjustments and ocular corrections uses remaining vision for learning.

(2) Criteria for eligibility. A student is eligible for a special program for the visually impaired if the following medical and educational criteria are met:

(a) Medical. There is a documented eye impairment as manifested by at least one of the following:

1. A visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after best possible correction;
2. A peripheral field so constricted that it affects the

student's ability to function in an educational setting;

3. A progressive loss of vision which may affect the student's ability to function in an academic setting; or

4. For children birth to five (5) years of age, bilateral lack of central, steady, or maintained fixation of vision with an estimated visual acuity of 20/70 or less after best possible correction; bilateral central scotoma involving the perimacula area (20/80-20/200); bilateral grade III, IV, or V Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP); or documented eye impairment as stated in paragraph (2)(a) of this rule.

(b) Educational. There is a documented functional vision loss which:

1. Inhibits optimal processing of information through the visual channel; and

2. Requires the use of specialized techniques, textbooks, materials, or equipment.

(3) Procedures for screening.

(a) Vision screening is done solely for the purpose of referring students to an ophthalmologist or optometrist for further evaluation. A medical eye report shall take the place of a vision screening report.

(b) Screening shall be in accordance with Section 402.32, Florida Statutes. In addition students being considered for exceptional student programs, excluding gifted and homebound or hospitalized who may be screened on a referral basis, shall receive vision, hearing, speech, and language screenings prior to being considered for eligibility.

(4) Procedures for student evaluation.

(a) The minimum evaluations necessary for determining eligibility shall include:

1. A medical eye examination describing: etiology, diagnosis, treatment regimen, prognosis, near/distance, corrected/ uncorrected acuity measures for left eye, right eye and both eyes, measure of field of vision, and recommendations for lighting levels, physical activity, aids, or use of glasses, as appropriate. For children birth to five

(5) years of age, a medical assessment describing visual functioning shall be documented when standard visual acuities and measure of field of vision are unattainable.

2. Documented observation of functional vision to include daily living skills and mode of reading by a teacher of students with visual impairments or an appropriately trained diagnostician, and

3. Evaluation of developmental or academic functioning.

(b) Additional information including vocational and orientation and mobility evaluations may be gathered to assist in determining the appropriate educational program

and necessary environmental adjustments for the student.

(c) Reevaluation shall occur at least every three (3) years and shall include evaluations in accordance with paragraph (4)(a) of this rule. The medical aspect of reevaluation for students with bilateral anophthalmia may be waived by a written recommendation of a physician.

(5) Instructional program. Instruction in orientation and mobility shall be included when appropriate.

(6) Supportive services.

(a) The district shall make available the professional services needed to support the program. These shall include registration of all students for services of the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Handicapped.

(b) Other support services may include, but not be limited to:

1. Provision of specialized textbooks, learning materials and equipment; and

2. Cooperative planning with the Division of Blind Services, including parent involvement activities.

*Specific Authority 1000.01, 1001.42(4)(1), 1003.55, 1003.57 FS. Law Implemented 1003.57(5), 1011.62(1)(c) FS. History—New 7-1-77, Amended 7-13-83, Formerly 6A-6.3014, Amended 2-12-91.*