

DEAF BLINDNESS

ALIEF MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOL

101815

Template update May 2020

Legal Framework: Deaf Blindness

[Related Resources](#)

Broad Category: EVALUATION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Medical Evaluation:

- Eye medical reports are required in order to qualify as a student with a visual impairment. This information can be supplied by parents/guardians after they are received from the eye doctor. The Campus Special Education Representative (CSER) or VI teacher can gather consent from the parents/guardians to request an eye medical report. When families cannot get this evaluation completed on their own, a social worker will help arrange a medical appointment.
- Otological evaluation: An otological examination performed by an otolaryngologist (ENT), or by a licensed medical doctor with documentation that an otolaryngologist is not reasonably available is required to qualify as a student with a hearing impairment. The EAS can get consent from the parents/guardians to request the Part A - Otological report from the doctor. The procedures and materials used for the assessment and placement of the child who is deaf or hard of hearing must be in the child's preferred mode of communication.
- Audiological - An audiological evaluation performed by a licensed audiologist is required to qualify as a student with a hearing impairment. This evaluation must be current within the last year. The CSER can get consent from the parents/guardians to request the Part B - Audiological report from the doctor. The procedures and materials used for the assessment and placement of the child who is deaf or hard of hearing must be in the child's preferred mode of communication.
- When families cannot get an Otological, Audiological, or an Eye Medical Exam completed on their own, a social worker will help arrange a medical appointment.

Assessments Needed:

- Medical Eye Exam performed by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist is required to qualify as a student with a vision impairment. This evaluation should be current within the last year.
- A Functional Vision Evaluation by a certified teacher of children with visual impairments, or a COMS that includes:
 - Performance tasks in a variety of environments requiring the use of both near and distance vision; and
 - Recommendations concerning the need for a clinical low vision evaluation;

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- A Learning Media Assessment by a certified teacher of children with visual impairments that includes:
 - Recommendations concerning which specific visual, tactual, and/or auditory learning media are appropriate for the child; and
 - Whether there is a need for ongoing evaluation in this area; and
- An Orientation and Mobility evaluation performed by a COMS in a variety of lighting conditions and a variety of settings including in the child's home, school, and community and in settings unfamiliar to the child.
- An Otological examination performed by an otolaryngologist (ENT), or by a licensed medical doctor with documentation that an otolaryngologist is not reasonably available
- An Audiological evaluation performed by a licensed audiologist is required to qualify as a student with a hearing impairment. This evaluation should be current within the last year
- A Communication Assessment completed by a certified teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing that includes assessment of:
 - Audiological
 - Functional listening skills
 - Expressive and receptive language
 - Speech reading skills
 - Primary mode of communication

ELIGIBILITY (must meet one criterion from each):

Visually Impaired:

- The student does meet eligibility requirements as a student with a Visual Impairment
OR
- The student does not meet eligibility requirements as a student with a visual impairment, however, has a documented visual impairment or suspected progressive vision loss, it should be determined by the TVI and DHH specialist if the visual impairment when combined with a hearing loss adversely affects the student's educational performance.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing:

- The student does meet eligibility requirements as a student who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing
OR
- If the student does not meet eligibility requirements as a student who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing but has a documented hearing loss or suspected progressive hearing loss, it should be determined by the TVI and DHH specialist if the visual impairment when combined with a hearing loss. Speech Language Pathologist determines no speech at an age where there should be.

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DB Eligibility:

- When a combination of a hearing and a vision loss occurs and the student may not meet eligibility for VI or DHH alone, but the combination adversely affects the student's educational performance Deaf Blind eligibility should be considered.
- When a student meets the eligibility of a student who is Deaf Blind, the VI or DHH teacher completes the Deaf Blind Eligibility documentation to be added to the FIE.

Completed Evaluations:

- If the student qualifies as a student who is Deaf Blind, the Consent for Release of Confidential Information will be shared by the Teacher of the Visually Impaired and completed by the parent/guardian at the Initial ARD and updated every Annual ARD meeting.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE:

District Level: Special Education Director, Audiologist, ENT Physician, Teacher of Students with Auditory and Visual Impairments, Educational Diagnostician, Teacher of the DeafBlind and/or Teacher of the Auditory Impaired, Teacher of the DeafBlind and/or Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Campus Level: Administrators, Campus Referral Committee, Counselors, Campus Special Education Representative, teachers, parents

TIMELINES FOR IDENTIFYING DISABILITY CONDITIONS:

- Initial evaluations procedures
- Reevaluations procedures

EVIDENCE OF PRACTICE:

- Forms or checklists used
- List of qualified evaluators with appropriate licenses and certifications
- Copies of evaluations