

Changes to Eligibility for APH Registration

Previous Eligibility Guidelines

Meet the definition of blindness (MDB)—a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less (using a Snellen chart or an acuity determined in Snellen equivalents) in the better eye with the best correction or a peripheral field of vision no greater than 20 degrees,

Function at the definition of blindness (FDB)—when visual function meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye care specialist (ophthalmologist or optometrist) or a medical doctor such as a neurologist. Students in this category manifest unique visual characteristics often found in conditions referred to as neurological, cortical, or cerebral visual impairment (e.g., brain injury or dysfunction).

New Eligibility Guideline

IF NEITHER are met, students may also be eligible because they:

Qualify under the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** definition of blindness: an impairment in vision, that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance (34CFR §300.8(c)(13)).*

This means any student who is not considered legally blind can qualify if their vision adversely impacts their education and they have accommodations for their vision written into their education plan.

FAQs

How should I report acuity for students that are not legally blind?

Even though your student is not legally blind, the MIRC will still need to collect their acuity information. Use the acuity codes listed in the instructions and choose what the best fit is for your student. Contact Gabrielle Borders if you need help deciding what code to use.

Does this change the due date for registration?

No, all forms related to APH registration are still due back on February 1st, 2024. Do your best to collect all student information and ROIs by that time.

Do I need to submit the written education plan of students who qualify under IDEA?

No, there is no need to submit any written education plan to the MIRC. It is the responsibility of the individuals reporting the student to have the plan on file in case of an audit.

How do I get extra blank forms?

You can find all registration forms and instructions on the MIRC webpage:

<https://msb.dese.mo.gov/outreach-services/mirc.html>

If you have any other questions or concerns contact Gabrielle Borders at gabrielle.borders@msb.dese.mo.gov or 314-633-1551