

Purpose, Eligibility, and Requirements

Definition, Purpose, and Authority for Data Collection

The annual Registration of Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired is the count of eligible students in each local education agency (LEA) in the State of Missouri as of the first Monday in January (**January 5, 2026**). This registration serves the following purpose: Generates federal funds for educational materials from the American Printing House (APH) for the Blind Federal Quota Program. **Reference: Section 101-106, 20 United States Code Annotated**

District/Agency Responsibility

› Each LEA must complete the registration form with a signature of the Superintendent, Special Education Director, or designee and return by email to gabrielle.borders@msb.dese.mo.gov OR by mail to Gabrielle Borders, Missouri Instructional Resource Center, 3815 Magnolia Ave, St Louis, MO 63110 by **February 2nd 2026**.

- › It is the legal responsibility of each LEA to retain a copy of the eye/medical report, written education plan, and the Parental Release of Information in the student file of those included on the registry in the event of an audit.

› **NOTE: Recent eye reports that were required for the Federal Quota Registration have been waived by APH. If your student meets the eligibility guidelines, please register them without a current eye report in the 2026 registration. It is a good idea to keep initial eye reports on file as it is your responsibility to verify a student's eligibility in case of an audit.**

Who to Register – Eligibility Requirements for Federal Quota Funds

To be eligible for registration in the Federal Quota Program a student **MUST** meet the following criteria, as outlined in the **Act to Promote the Education of the Blind**:

- Meet the definition of legal blindness:
 - › A central visual acuity of 20/200 or less (using the Snellen Chart or an acuity determined in Snellen equivalents) in the better eye with best correction or
 - › A peripheral field of vision no greater than 20 degrees; OR
- Functions at the definition of blindness (FDB) in which visual functioning is reduced by a brain injury or dysfunction and visual acuity is not possible to determine using the Snellen Chart as reported by an eye care specialist or other medical doctor.
- 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 (34 CFR §300.8(c)(13)). Students qualified under IDEA must have a written education plan (can be any kind) that calls for accommodations for vision.
- Be enrolled in a formally organized educational program of less than college level. Note: The educational programs providing services to these students can include public, charter, private, parochial, home schools, or home bound.
- Be enrolled with the registering school or agency on Monday, January 5th, 2026.

Eligibility of Infants, Preschool, Grade School, and Homebound Students

Students should be registered if they are enrolled in a formally organized, regularly scheduled educational or training program, have a signed release of information, and have a written education plan.

Eligibility of Students Who Are Home Schooled

For students who are blind and visually impaired and are home schooled to prove eligible for registration in the Federal Quota Program, the home school program should meet the guidelines and/or procedures in effect within each individual state. Students must have a written education plan and a signed release of information by a parent/guardian.