

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Academic Year 2024-2025

Level 1 Services

As appropriate, Level 1 Services may be provided in any of the following areas, based upon individual student needs, as determined by the Commission Instructor. These services will be provided by an instructor possessing a valid teaching certificate issued by the NJ Department of Education as a Teacher of the Blind or Visually Impaired or Teacher of Students with Disabilities, with a minimum of 4 contacts and a maximum of 8 contacts per year.

Assessment and Evaluation

1. Performs a functional vision assessment to evaluate the student's practical use of vision in the education program. Evaluating how a student uses his/her vision enables the Commission instructor to recommend appropriate specialized materials and methods of accommodation to the student relative to:
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Homework
 - Environmental Factors (Lighting, contrast, glare, seating...etc.)
 - Standardized Tests
 - Performance of Functional/Life Skills
 - Educational aids and materials; i.e., various magnifiers, reading stands, slant top desk, variable intensity lamp, dark-lined paper, etc.
2. Based on the results of the financial needs survey, the Commission may authorize for an examination of the student's vision and may provide eyeglasses, as recommended. Where needed, a specialized eye examination such as a low vision evaluation may be authorized.
3. Obtains and interprets eye examination reports.
4. When indicated, evaluates the use of other sensory modalities (i.e., deaf/blind disabilities).

Technical Assistance, Consultative and Instructional Services

Consults with appropriate school personnel, students and families in regard to issues pertaining to vision loss and the impact on the educational process and independent life skills functioning. This may consist of the following:

1. Provides technical assistance to the school, student and family regarding the implications of the student's individual eye condition and in the maintenance of eye health.
2. Provision of technical assistance to the school and family regarding development of visual skills and vision stimulation.
3. Assists all parties involved with the student to recognize and encourage age-appropriate self-management and socialization skills.
4. Emphasizes decision making and problem solving skills regarding situations in the school, home and community that may be affected by vision loss.
5. Provides information to all parties in regard to options available for completing various educational tasks.
6. Assists the student in the development of appropriate organizational skills to enhance independent management of adaptive equipment, low vision aids, and other educational materials.
7. Provides for instruction in the care and maintenance of adaptive materials.

8. Helps families establish routines to enhance the student's ability to complete homework assignments, participate in family activities, etc.
9. Provides information to encourage participation in school and community related programs such as scouting, 4-H, after school activities, clubs, etc.
10. Recommends and refers for appropriate specialized evaluations and services from other Commission personnel, according to Commission policies and service availability. These non-educational non-contracted services may include Orientation and Mobility, Independent Living and Adaptive Technology.
11. Extends an invitation to recreational events and transitional programs sponsored by the Commission.

Loan of Adaptive Aids, Materials and Equipment

The Commission's instructor, when appropriate, lends specialized materials and equipment that are available from the Commission's Instructional Resource Center. Introductory instruction related to adaptive equipment may be provided in order to enable students who are visually impaired to be educated with their sighted peers.

1. Loan of available textbooks /educational materials in the appropriate media.
2. Loan of adaptive equipment including:
 - Audio-book player/recorder
 - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) as indicated by a low vision evaluation
 - Talking Calculator
 - Large Print Calculator
 - Appropriate adaptive software for computer access
3. Loan of educational aids relative to:
 - Use of residual vision
 - Subject areas, such as mathematics, geography, history, science, etc.
 - Handwriting
 - Low vision
 - Map study
 - Sensory Stimulation/Vision Stimulation
 - Functional/Life Skill instruction
4. Loan of reference material in large print.

