

Visual Impairment

Federal Definition

An impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance (includes both partial sight and blindness).

State Definition

The Illinois definition is the same as the federal definition stated above.

Diagnostic Criteria

Determinant Factors If the student is not succeeding due to (a) lack of scientifically based practices and programs that contain the essential components of reading, (b) lack of instruction in math, or (c) Limited English Proficiency, the student is not eligible for services under IDEA.

Exclusionary Criteria Deficits cannot be due to environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantages.

Inclusionary Criteria Medical diagnosis by an ophthalmologist or optometrist and one or more of the following:

- Visual acuity of 20/70 or less in student's best eye with correction
- Degenerative eye condition
- Significant visual field loss

Adverse Effect Student's IEP requires individual statement of adverse effect.

Adversely affects educational performance in academic achievement, acquisition and execution of functional skills, social/emotional adjustment, and communication within the school setting and/or ability to access the general classroom environment independently.