



ELC Vision Program Referral Process

The Process

Step 1

Parents/caregivers, teachers, other therapists/service providers, or school nurses have concerns about a child's use of vision. Please fill out the [ELC Vision Referral Form](#).

Step 2

The school must receive a current ocular report (within one year) from the child's optometrist or ophthalmologist. Please have your eye care specialist complete either form and return to Jennifer Hoffmann at jhoffmann@elced.org and your child's school nurse.

[Illinois Materials Center Ocular Report for Persons with Visual Problems](#) OR [State of Illinois Eye Examination Report](#)

Note: For students diagnosed with Cortical or Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI), a report from a neurologist is also permissible.

Step 3

The vision itinerant will review the ocular report, and schedule a classroom observation to evaluate how the child's vision impacts their educational performance.

Step 4

If the child meets the eligibility criteria (ocular & functional), a domain meeting for an IEP or 504 (dependent on student's needs) will be scheduled to recommend and discuss formal testing that will be completed by the vision itinerant. If the child does not meet eligibility criteria, a list of accommodation suggestions can be provided to the teacher/parents/caregivers.

Eligibility Criteria

Inclusionary Criteria

To receive vision itinerant services, a student must meet one or more of the ocular criteria that is found, upon completion of a Functional Vision and Learning Media Assessment, to adversely affect his/her academic performance.

Ocular Criteria:

- Reduced visual acuity, usually 20/70 or less in the better eye after correction
- Progressive and/or permanent eye conditions as noted by an eye specialist in an ocular report
- Restricted field of vision, usually a visual field of 20 degrees or less
- Cortical/cerebral visual impairment
- Temporary medical/eye condition that warrants services for a limited time
- Other long-term eye condition (not previously noted above) that negatively impacts the student's educational performance

Exclusionary Criteria

If a Functional Vision and Learning Media Assessment is conducted and provides data that the student's vision is not the factor affecting his/her academic performance, the student will not qualify for vision itinerant services.

What is a Vision Itinerant?

A Vision Itinerant is a certified teacher of the visually impaired. She/he travels to a student's school and collaborates with the educational team to provide:

- Specialized materials and adaptive equipment
- Consultation and training to involved staff members
- Ongoing observation and evaluation of student's visual functioning and performance
- Assistance with education planning based on visual needs
- Specialized skill instruction to each student based on visual, academic, and functional needs
 - Braille instruction and tactile enhancement
 - Assistive technology instruction
 - Auditory enhancement and equipment use
 - Reinforcement of existing visual skills and performance
 - Expanded core curriculum instruction including self advocacy and daily living skills as it relates to vision loss