



December 21, 2020

Dear County and District Directors of Special Education, Special Education Local Plan Area Directors, Adult Education School and Regional Occupational School Principals, Charter School Administrators, and Private School Administrators

Annual Registration of Legally Blind Students for the American Printing House for the Blind Federal Quota Program

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Federal Quota Program allocates federal funds to public and private educational agencies that register students who are legally blind. The amount allocated to each agency is based on the number of students registered with the APH. The allocation entitles students to receive textbooks in braille or large print, educational aids, and special equipment at no cost to the local educational agency (LEA).

- Definition of legal blindness is divided into two categories:
 - Meets the Definition of Blindness (MDB): Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction (using the Snellen Chart); or a peripheral field so contracted that the widest diameter of such field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
 - Functions at the Definition of Blindness (FDB): Visual performance reduced by a brain injury or dysfunction that meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye specialist or neurologist.

The California Department of Education will be collecting information to enroll students who qualify for the APH Federal Quota Program. To learn more about participating in the APH Federal Quota Program, visit the Clearinghouse for Specialized Media and Technology's website, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/sm/aphinfo.asp>.

Registration will be open from January 4, 2021, to February 12, 2021. Register only students who are legally blind and enrolled in your LEA as of January 4, 2021.

If your LEA registered students last year, you will receive instructions in a separate email on how to update the previously registered students. The registration system is completely online and designed to streamline your registration process.

December 21, 2020

Page 2

Eye Report: A thorough and confidential eye report prepared by an optometrist or ophthalmologist must confirm that the student's vision falls within the definition of legal blindness stated above. This report must be current, within the last three years, and must remain with the LEA. In the event that a student is totally blind, the student's eyes have been enucleated, or the student has proven non-changing eye conditions, only initial documentation is required and may be from a medical doctor.

Parent Permission Form: A parent permission form must be signed and dated. The signed form should be kept with the student's record within the LEA. **If the LEA has a copy of a signed and dated parent permission form for the student from a previous APH registration, a new form is not needed.** The requirement for positive parental consent before releasing confidential student information is a provision of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 20 USC Section 1232g; Title 34, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 99) and its counterpart, *California Education Code* Section 49060. These requirements extend to nonpublic schools operating under contract with a public school.

For questions regarding this letter, the APH Federal Quota Program, registering students for the first time, or registering new students, please contact James Morrison, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, by phone at 916-323-1329 or by email at jmorrison@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rachael Maves, Deputy Superintendent
Instruction & Measurement Branch

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