

FACT SHEET



Visual Impairment/Blindness

Evaluation for Special Education

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in 2004, includes important procedures which schools must use when evaluating eligibility for special education services. An initial evaluation involves the use of a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information to assist in determining if the child is eligible for special education. A two-pronged test for eligibility is used in making the determination: (1) whether the child is a child with an exceptionality (disability or giftedness) as defined in federal and state laws and regulations; and (2) by reason thereof, has a need for special education and related services. Having information, assessments, or diagnosis from sources external to the school is

helpful but is not sufficient to determine eligibility for special education under IDEA.

A child must NOT be determined to be a child with an exceptionality if: (a) the determinant factor is: lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction (defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency including oral reading skills, and reading comprehension strategies); lack of appropriate instruction in math; or Limited English proficiency; and (b) the child does not otherwise meet the eligibility criteria as a child with an exceptionality.

Visual Impairment/Blindness

Visual impairment means an impairment in vision that, even with corrections, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness KAR 91-40-1(uuu).

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

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Blindness means a visual impairment that requires

Visual Impairment/Blindness
dependence on tactile and auditory media for learning KAR 91-40-1 (g)

More Information and Resources

[KSDE Kansas Special Education Process Handbook](#)

[KSDE Kansas Eligibility Indicators](#)

[National Eye Institute](#)

[American Printing House](#)

For more information, contact:

Special Education and Title Services Team
1-(800) 203-9462 (Kansas Residents Only)
(785) 296-7454
Special.Education@ksde.gov



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