



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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January 7, 2019

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children
Exceptional Children Coordinators
Directors, State Operated Programs
Directors, Residential Facilities
Directors, Private Schools
Chief Administrator, Homeschool

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "STH", written over the printed name "Sherry H. Thomas".

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REGISTRATION OF LEGALLY BLIND STUDENTS NOW OPEN

The annual registration of students who qualify as legally blind is now open. The Annual Registration of Legally Blind Students is used to calculate the amount of Federal Quota Funds designated for the purchase of educational materials for eligible students through the American Printing House for the Blind. Students in public and private schools, including home schools, are eligible to participate in this program. To be considered eligible students must meet the following requirements:

1. Student **enrollment** in the LEA as of January 7, 2019;
2. Written **education plan**, such as an IEP, 504 Plan, or any other written action plan;
3. Current **eye report** within the past 3 years from an ophthalmologist, optometrist, or neurologist, which indicates the student Meets the definition of blindness (i.e., central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses or a peripheral field so contracted that the widest diameter of such field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees) or Functions at the Definition of Blindness;
4. Signed **Parent Permission Form** for each infant, preschool, or school-aged student registered.

Please note that school systems are responsible for maintaining up to date records in the case a federal or state audit occurs.

As reported in the October 2018 APH memo, if an LEA has an eye report that does not indicate specific acuity and/or field measurements, but the educational staff believes the student meets APH's medical criteria, the new **Medical Addendum Form** must be completed by an authorized medical professional in order to place the child on the Registration. Authorized medical professionals include the student's: optometrist, ophthalmologist, and/or neurologist.

Please note that the **Parent Permission Form** and the **Medical Addendum Form** (if needed), are not collected by NCDPI; rather they are kept in the child's educational file within the LEA. The referenced forms are attached for your convenience.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Sherry H. Thomas, Interim Director | sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

To access the online registration please visit:

https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8ihaf78BluFwvqp. Registration opens today, January 7, 2019, and closes February 15, 2019. If your LEA has **no qualifying students**, you must enter the online registration survey to indicate “No Eligible Students.”

For access to all information regarding the Annual Legally Blind Registration please visit:

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/visual-impairments/north-carolina-vi-outreach>.

Please note that the Annual Registration of Legally Blind Students is different from the Deaf-Blind Census. However, a student may qualify for both if the appropriate criteria is met. Information about the Deaf-Blind Census will be distributed in February 2019.

SHT/SV/ac
attachments