

## VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Authorities: 34 CFR Part 300; Texas Education Code; 19 TAC Chapter 89

### [Additional Resources](#)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
D	The child must be assessed in all areas of suspected disability.	<a href="#">300.304(c)(4)</a>
P	The local education agency (LEA) must comply with the <a href="#">EVALUATION PROCEDURES</a> framework.	
P	In Texas, the group of qualified professionals that determines whether the child is a child with a disability and the educational needs of the child is the child's <a href="#">ADMISSION, REVIEW, AND DISMISSAL COMMITTEE</a> .	<a href="#">89.1040(b)</a> <a href="#">89.1050(a)(5)</a>
P	For the child from birth through two years of age with a visual impairment, an individualized family service plan meeting must be held in place of the admission, review, and dismissal committee meeting; and the LEA must comply with the <a href="#">AGES 0-5</a> framework.	<a href="#">89.1050(b)</a>
D	A person who is appropriately certified as an orientation and mobility specialist (COMS) must participate, as part of the multidisciplinary team, in evaluating data used in making the determination of the child's eligibility as a child with a visual impairment.	<a href="#">89.1040(c)(12)(EC)</a> <a href="#">TEC 30.002(c-1)(2)</a>
<u>D</u>	<a href="#">A COMS must participate in any reevaluation as part of the multidisciplinary team, in evaluating data used to make the determination of the child's need for specially designed instruction.</a>	<a href="#">89.1040(c)(12)(B)</a>

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	<b>EVALUATION PROCEDURES</b>	
D	<p>The <del>Information from a variety of sources must be considered by the multidisciplinary team that collects or reviews</del> evaluation data <del>reviewed by the group of qualified professionals</del> in connection with the determination of the child's disability based on <del>a</del> visual impairment <u>in order to determine the need for specially designed instruction and</u> must include:</p>	<p><del>89.1040(c)(12)(A)</del><u>89.1040(c)(12)</u></p>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <u>medical</u> report by a <u>licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist</u> that:</li> </ul>	<p><del>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(i)</del><u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)</u></p>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <del>States</del><u>Indicates</u> the visual loss <u>stated</u> in exact measures of visual field and corrected visual acuity at a distance and at <del>close</del><u>near</u> range, in each eye; or</li> </ul>	<p><del>89.1040(c)(12)(A)</del><u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(i)</u></p>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If exact measures cannot be obtained, <del>provides the eye specialist must so state and provide</del> best estimates of the visual loss; and</li> </ul>	<p><del>89.1040(c)(12)(A)</del><u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(i)</u></p>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <del>Includes</del><u>Should also include</u> a <u>diagnosis and prognosis</u> whenever possible; <u>and whether the child has:</u></li> </ul>	<p><del>89.1040(c)(12)(A)</del><u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(i)</u></p>
<u>D</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>No vision or a visual loss</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(i)(I)</u></p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>after correction; or</u></p>	
<u>D</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>A progressive medical condition that will result in no vision or a visual loss after correction.</u></li> </ul>	<u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(i)(II)</u>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A functional vision evaluation by a certified teacher of children with visual impairments, or a COMS that includes:</li> </ul>	<u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(ii)</u>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Performance <u>of</u> tasks in a variety of environments requiring the use of both near and distance vision; and</li> </ul>	<u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(i)(I) - 86th Leg. 89.1040(c)(12)(A)(ii)</u>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommendations concerning the need for a clinical low vision evaluation;</li> </ul>	<u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(i)(I) - 86th Leg. 89.1040(c)(12)(A)(ii)</u>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A learning media assessment by a certified teacher of children with visual impairments that includes:</li> </ul>	<u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(iii)</u>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommendations concerning which specific visual, tactual, and/or auditory learning media are</li> </ul>	<u>89.1040(c)(12)(A)(iii)</u>

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	appropriate for the child; and	
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Whether there is a need for ongoing evaluation in this area; and</li> </ul>	<a href="#">89.1040(c)(12)(A)(iii)</a>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>AnAs part of the full individual and initial evaluation, an</del> orientation and mobility evaluation performed by a COMS in a variety of lighting conditions and a variety of settings including in the child's home, school, and community and in settings unfamiliar to the child.</li> </ul>	<del>89.1040(c)(12)(C) 86th Leg.</del> <a href="#">89.1040(c)(12)(A)(iv)</a> <a href="#">TEC 30.002(c-1)(1)</a>
<b>ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</b>		
P	A child with a visual impairment is one who has been determined to meet the criteria for visual impairment.	<a href="#">89.1040(c)(12)</a> <a href="#">300.8(c)(13)</a>
P	The term <i>visual impairment including blindness</i> means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects the child's educational performance, and includes both partial sight and blindness.	<del>89.1040(c)(12)</del> <a href="#">300.8(c)(13)</a>
P	<del>In meeting the criteria for a visual impairment, the child with a visual impairment has been determined by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist:</del>	<del>89.1040(c)(12)(A)</del> <del>300.8(c)(13)</del>
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>To have no vision or to have a serious visual loss after correction; or</del></li> </ul>	<del>89.1040(c)(12)(A)</del>
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>To have a progressive medical condition that will</del></li> </ul>	<del>89.1040(c)(12)(A)</del>

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	<p>result in no vision or a serious visual loss after correction.</p>	
	<p><b>FUNCTIONALLY BLIND</b></p>	
<p>P</p>	<p>The child with a visual impairment is <i>functionally blind</i> if, based on the functional vision evaluation and the learning media assessment, the child will use tactual media, which includes braille, as a primary tool for learning to be able to communicate in both reading and writing at the same level of proficiency as other children of comparable ability.</p>	<p><u>89.1040(c)(12)(B)</u></p>

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