

Proposed Rules and Regulations To Implement the Braille and Large Print Textbook Appropriation

1.00 Regulatory Authority

1.01 These regulations shall be known as Arkansas Department of Education Regulations to Implement the Braille and Large Print Textbook Appropriation.

1.02 These regulations are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Act 1005 of 1997.

2.00 Purpose

2.01 It is the purpose of these regulations to set forth the criteria for determining student eligibility for adaptive textbooks (i.e. braille and large print).

2.02 These regulations define the process for local school district access to such adaptive textbooks for students with visual impairments.

3.00 Definitions

3.01 For the purpose of these regulations, adaptive textbooks are defined to mean braille and large print.

3.02 IDEA refers to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

3.03 IEP means the individualized education program for a student with disabilities under the IDEA.

3.04 *Learning Media Assessment* (LMA) authored by Koenig, A. & Holbrook, C., 1995, is a structured systematic procedure used to gather information and document decisions regarding the selection of reading and writing media for students who are visually impaired.

3.05 *Minnesota Braille Skills Inventory* published by the Minnesota Department of Education, 1995, is a comprehensive assessment of braille skills including knowledge of braille contractions, nemeth code, foreign language codes and computer braille.

3.06 Informal Reading Inventories (IRIs) as used in these regulations refers to commercially available IRIs which are adapted into braille and large print and used as a part of continuing assessment to determine student progress in reading as measured by reading comprehension and reading rate.

3.07 Reading rates are measured using informal reading inventories and content texts and are one component of the data needed to determine efficiency in a student's current literacy media.

3.08 Informal functional vision assessment as used in these regulations refers to teacher observations which provide evidence of a student's use of visual ability in near and distance tasks.

4.00 Administration

4.01 The braille and large print textbook program for students with visual impairments shall be administered by the Arkansas School for the Blind in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Education's designee from Internal Administration.

5.00 Eligibility For Adaptive Textbooks

5.01 The following criteria should be considered when determining the appropriate reading medium for students with visual impairment.

5.01.1 Observations made by, but not limited to, the classroom teacher, parent, vision teacher and regional vision consultant.

5.01.2 Assessment by a regional vision consultant, vision teacher or reading teacher to include the following, as appropriate.

5.01.2.1 *Learning Media Assessment*

5.01.2.2 *Minnesota Braille Skills Inventory*

5.01.2.3 informal functional vision assessment

5.01.2.4 reading rates

5.01.3 Eye specialist report detailing acuity, pathology and prognosis.

5.01.4 Media/functional vision evaluation by a low vision specialist.

5.01.5 Student's IEP team recommendation.

6.00 School District Access to Adaptive Textbooks

6.01 Local school districts must assess any student whose visual impairment adversely affects his/her educational performance as to the student's need for adaptive textbooks.

6.02 For the purpose of these regulations, the criteria stated in Section 5.00 shall be the minimum criteria for determining student eligibility.

6.03 Local school districts may seek assistance for assessing a student's need for adaptive textbooks by calling the Educational Services for Visually Impaired located at the Arkansas School for the Blind.

6.04 Following a determination that a student is eligible for adaptive textbooks, the regional vision consultant serving the local school district will approve the purchase of textbooks for each student determined eligible.

6.05 The regional vision consultant will complete an Educational Materials Center book order form and transmit the form to the Educational Materials Center at the Arkansas School for the Blind.

7.00 Costs

7.01 There shall be no charge to local school districts for the large print or braille textbooks, unless the book is lost or is severely damaged.

7.02 Should a textbook be lost or sustain such damage as to render the book unusable, the district will be billed for the costs associated with replacing the book.