

**6A-6.03022 Special Programs for Students who are Dual-Sensory Impaired.**

(1) Dual-Sensory Impaired. A student who has dual-sensory impairments affecting both vision and hearing, the combination of which causes a serious impairment in the abilities to acquire information, communicate, or function within the environment, or who has a degenerative condition which will lead to such an impairment.

(2) Criteria. A student is eligible for a special program for students with dual-sensory impairments if the student has:

(a) One or more of the following visual impairments:

1. A visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after best correction;
2. A peripheral field loss;
3. A progressive vision loss; or
4. Other documented visual conditions including but not limited to extreme light sensitivity or lack of contrast sensitivity; and

(b) One or more of the following hearing impairments:

1. Hearing impairment of 30db or greater unaided in the better ear;
2. Other documented auditory conditions including but not limited to monaural loss or an inability to screen out auditory background sounds; or
3. A progressive hearing loss; and

(c) A combination of the visual and auditory impairments as specified above which adversely effects, or has the potential to adversely effect, the student's abilities to acquire information, communicate, or function within the environment, unless special instruction, materials, adaptations, or counseling are provided; or

(d) A diagnosed degenerative condition or syndrome which will lead to dual-sensory impairment and is likely to adversely affect the areas listed above.

(3) Procedures for student evaluation. The minimum evaluations which must be conducted to determine eligibility shall include:

(a) For students with a suspected degenerative condition or syndrome which will lead to dual-sensory impairment; a medical statement confirming the existence of such a condition or syndrome and its prognosis;

(b) For students who are under the age of three (3) years:

1. A medial eye exam describing etiology, diagnosis, and prognosis,
2. Documented observation of functional vision which includes possible impediments to visual use,
3. An audiological exam, and
4. Documented observation of auditory functioning.

(c) For students who are over the age of three (3) years:

1. All items included in paragraph (3)(b) of this rule,
2. An assessment of speech and language functioning which includes a differential diagnosis of the student's linguistic abilities and of modality strengths and preferences, and
3. An assessment of intellectual functioning, developmental level, or academic functioning.

(4) Re-evaluation. Re-evaluation shall occur at least every three (3) years and shall include a minimum of the evaluations required in paragraph (3)(b) of this rule, and any other evaluations specified by an evaluation specialist and an exceptional student teacher after examination of available information in all areas addressed in the initial evaluation or in subsequent re-evaluations of the student in accordance with subsections 6A-6.0331(7), (8), F.A.C. The medical aspect of re-evaluation for students with bilateralanophthalmia may be waived by a written recommendation of a physician.

(5) Instructional Program. Each individual student who is dual-sensory impaired shall be served in any program or combination of programs for students with or without disabilities where the student can receive appropriate services. The district shall establish procedures to ensure that each student's program is adequately met.

(6) Registry. Information on all students who are dual-sensory impaired shall be submitted to the state's registry of students with dual-sensory impairments and to the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Handicapped, as required for access to certain specialized services.