



Missouri Eligibility Criteria for Visual Impairment/Blindness

Visual Impairment/Blindness Definition

Visual Impairment, including blindness, means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

Criteria for Initial Determination of Eligibility

A child displays a Visual Impairment when:

- A. a visual impairment or a progressive vision loss has been diagnosed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist;
- B. visual acuity has been determined to be:
 - 1) for visual impairment of 20/70 to 20/200 in the better eye with best correction by glasses;
 - 2) for blindness of 20/200 or less in the better eye after best correction by glasses or a visual field measuring 20 degrees or less; and,
- C. the visual impairment adversely affects the child's educational performance.

Missouri Eligibility Criteria can be found in the Missouri State Plan for Special Education, Regulation III-Identification and evaluation; <http://dese.mo.gov/governmental-affairs/dese-administrative-rules/incorporated-reference-materials/IDEAPartB-2014>