

O&M Assessment Regulations

Michigan

Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) – Current Rules

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/R340.1708_1721e_CurrentRules_715505_7.pdf

Department of Education-

Superintendent of Public Instruction Special Education Programs and Services

R 340.1708 Visual impairment explained; determination.

Rule 8.

- 1) A visual impairment shall be determined through the manifestation of both of the following:
 - a. A visual impairment which, even with correction, interferes with development or which adversely affects educational performance. Visual impairment includes both partial sight and blindness.
 - b. One or more of the following:
- 2) A central visual acuity for near or far point vision of 20/70 or less in the better eye after routine refractive correction.
 - i. A peripheral field of vision restricted to not more than 20 degrees.
 - ii. A diagnosed progressively deteriorating eye condition.
- 3) A determination of impairment shall be based upon a full and individual evaluation by a multidisciplinary evaluation team, which shall include an ophthalmologist or optometrist.
- 4) If a student cannot be tested accurately for acuity, then functional visual assessments conducted by a teacher certified in visual impairment may be used in addition to the medical evaluation for determination of impairment.
- 5) For students with visual impairment who have a visual acuity of 20/200 or less after routine refractive correction, or who have a peripheral field of vision restricted to not more than 20 degrees, an evaluation by an orientation and mobility specialist shall be conducted.
- 6) The orientation and mobility specialist shall also include in the report a set of recommended procedures to be used by a mobility specialist or a teacher of students with visual impairment in conducting orientation and mobility training activities.

Maryland

Code of Regulations (Last Updated: February 24, 2021)

Maryland State Board of Education, Subtitle 05. Special Instructional Programs
Chapter 13a.05.01.08. Provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education, Sec. Individualized
Education Program (IEP) Team Responsibilities
<http://mdrules.elaws.us/comar/13a.05.01.08>

A. IEP Development.

(1) – (5) (general special education regulations)

6) Blind or Visually Impaired Students.

- (a) If a student is blind or visually impaired, the IEP team shall provide for instruction in:
 - i. Braille and the use of braille, including textbooks in braille, unless the IEP team determines that instruction in braille is not appropriate for the student in accordance with 34 CFR §300.324(a)(2)(iii), Education Article, §8-408, Annotated Code of Maryland, and COMAR 13A.06.05.01.
 - ii. **Orientation and mobility**, unless the IEP team determines that instruction in orientation and mobility is not appropriate for the student in accordance with Education Article, §8-408, Annotated Code of Maryland, and §A(6)(b)–(d) of this regulation.
- (b) If the **IEP team determines that instruction in orientation and mobility is not appropriate for the student, the IEP team shall order an orientation and mobility assessment**, consistent with guidelines established by the Department, that:
 - i. Includes input from the student’s parent or guardian;
 - ii. Includes input from the student’s classroom teacher; and
 - iii. Takes into consideration the student’s age, current and future needs, ability to function in familiar and unfamiliar areas, and ability to function under various lighting conditions.
- (c) To be qualified to conduct an orientation and mobility assessment under paragraph (b), an individual shall:
 - i. Hold a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university; and
 - ii. Have completed any one of the credentialing options listed in paragraph (d).
- (d) Credentialing Options
 - i. Hold a certificate as a **Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS)** from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP);
 - ii. Hold **National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC)** from the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB); or
 - iii. Complete **all requirements of a university-based program in orientation and mobility**, including a **supervised internship** or externship in orientation and mobility.

Texas

Education Code, Education for Children with Visual Impairments, 2 (F). 30 (A). 30.002. C-1 2015

Reference:

Education for Children with Visual Impairments, TX. Education Code, Title 2. Public Education, Subtitle F, Chapter 30, Sec. 30.002. C-1 (2015).

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/SOTWDocs/ED/htm/ED.30.htm>

(c-1) To implement Subsection (c)(1) and to determine a child's eligibility for a school district's special education program on the basis of a visual impairment, the full individual and initial evaluation of the student required by Section [29.004](#) must, in accordance with commissioner rule:

- (1) include an orientation and mobility evaluation conducted:
 - (A) by a person who is appropriately certified as an orientation and mobility specialist, as determined under commissioner rule; and
 - (B) in a variety of lighting conditions and in a variety of settings, including in the student's home, school, and community and in settings unfamiliar to the student; and
- (2) provide for a person who is appropriately certified as an orientation and mobility specialist to participate, as part of a multidisciplinary team, in evaluating data on which the determination of the child's eligibility is based.