



## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND or VISUALLY IMPAIRED

### SERVICES COVERED UNDER THE NH DOE GRANT

#### Needs Assessment (Request for Services required)

Once a completed Request for Services has been received, an educational consultant will contact the school to discuss the individual needs of the student and make recommendations as to the appropriate level of support services.

#### Instructional Materials Center services (registration required)

Loan of Large Print/Braille materials and low vision aids  
Assistance with book orders

Low-Cost Centralized Training (workshops held at Dolloff Building in Concord, NH)

#### General Information and Referral

### SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR A FEE

*The services listed below are provided by a certified educator of students who are blind or visually impaired and are available for a fee of \$100.00 per hour, and reimbursement for mileage costs at the established federal rate (.505 per mile as of 1/1/08).*

#### Complete Record review and analysis

Review student's special education file to gather relevant data regarding vision condition, communication, gross and fine motor issues, and overall medical status. This is especially necessary when students have VI and multiple disabilities to investigate possible data related to CVI and other medical/neurological issues that may impact functional use of vision.

#### Observation

In-class observation of academic instruction time and specials classes (music, art, PE, computer classes, etc) with evaluation of instructional strategies, visual accommodations/modifications, access to the general curriculum, and the visual environment. Walk through of the school to identify potential vision problem areas (gym, cafeteria, library, playground, stairwells, etc.)

#### Educational Consultation

Available on a number of topics, such as:

- Observation follow-up meeting to share recommendations with the academic team, including parents, teacher(s), Special Education Staff, paraprofessionals, and child if appropriate.
- Research-based information around concept development, efficient use of residual vision, literacy modes including Braille and tactile graphics, social skills, and strategies for independent living, and educational placement.
- Educational strategies for learners with multiple needs, including vision impairment.
- Specialized equipment and/or materials adaptations to maximize visual functioning and learning.
- Development of student literacy programs (Braille, large print, tape)
- Helping prepare team and child for various academic transitions.
- Evaluation planning and determining appropriate assessment tools.

#### Follow-up phone or email consultation and support

Consultants available over phone or email to consult with educators or parents after initial consultation has occurred.

#### Report

Written document detailing observation/recommendations sent to parent/school staff.

### Meeting

One or more of the following:

- Progress meeting
- IEP or 504 meeting
- Three-year Evaluation planning meeting
- Three-year Evaluation meeting (teacher certified in the area of disability is required)
- Transition meeting

### Teacher In-Service

Presentation/training/simulation about the student's eye condition and the impact on access to the general curriculum.

### Vision support

Review and interpret medical eye reports, provide information and training around optical aids, low vision devices (CCTV, magnifiers, monoculars). Provide support to the team on Braille, tactile graphics, and materials adaptations.

### Functional Vision Assessment

The functional vision assessment assists the school team in identification of and program planning for the blind or visually impaired student by taking a detailed look at the student's visual performance and advises on how the student can best use their visual abilities in various settings.

### Learning Media Assessment

The LMA includes data collection relative to the student's use of sensory channels (vision, hearing, touch) to determine which sensory channel or combination allows the student to process information for learning. The assessment will consider the efficiency with which the student uses the various channels and devise a plan to improve their use if needed. For students accessing print, a literacy media assessment is needed to determine if the student is functionally blind and requires Braille instruction. The literacy media also provides essential information about print literacy for reading and writing and whether or not the student should be a dual literacy student learning both print and Braille.

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

*The services below are provided by experienced AT evaluators and trainers with special expertise in the assistive technology needs of student who are blind or visually impaired. As these services are provided by Network partners, fees established by each agency will apply.*

#### Assistive Technology Evaluation

These evaluations are designed to identify low vision aids and/or assistive technology devices and services that will assist the student to access the general curriculum and achieve academic success.

#### Assistive Technology Training

Training for students and/or school staff on how to use vision assistive technology and/or low vision aids that is being used by the student.

- Provide assessment and training for the use of braille notetakers (e.g; Pac-Mate, BrailleNote)
- Provide assessment and training in the use of magnification software (e.g. ZoomText, JAWS)
- Provide technical assistance for low vision aids and assistive technology through staff training, troubleshooting and assessment of physical environments.

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To arrange for any of the services listed here, contact the Project Director at 226-2900 or [catew@atechservices.org](mailto:catew@atechservices.org) or complete and mail or fax in the *NHVHN Request for Services* form. Once a request has been received, the appropriate consultant will contact the school to assist in determining the services needed for the school year. This initial contact to determine need is offered at no cost to the school. When the needed level of services has been determined, a contract for services will be established and/or the student will be registered for the Instructional Materials Center. Rates for the 2008-2009 school year are \$100.00/hr plus mileage costs.

*All forms associated with this project, as well as information about workshops, services and fees are also available on the project website [www.nhvhn.org](http://www.nhvhn.org).*