



Program for Students with Visual Impairments

The San Diego City Schools Program for Students with Visual Impairments (VI) is designed to foster maximum independence, to provide integration with sighted peers, to provide development of communication and literacy skills, and to provide career training. Curriculum is the same as for non-visually impaired peers throughout the district. Additional instruction is provided for the development of skills specifically necessary for persons with visual impairments, such as keyboarding (typing), Braille, the use of specialized equipment/materials, and travel skills. The goal of the VI program is to enable all students with visual impairments to attain their maximum potential and provide access to the district's curriculum, based on state standards, as well as supplemental curriculum that leads to a diploma, letter of recognition, or a certificate of completion.

Referrals: Referral to the Low Incidence Program office at (858) 490-8451 for VI services may be made by a parent, medical professional, school staff, or agency when:

- A medical diagnosis indicates a degenerative visual syndrome, a reduced visual acuity or reduced field of vision;
- Visual acuity cannot be improved with corrective lenses;
- A school nurse identifies reduced visual acuity during vision screening;
- A parent or school staff is concerned that a student may be visually impaired based on observations of manifestations of visual behaviors.

The VI program provides services to eligible students from birth to 22 years via the Individualized Family Service Plan/Individualized Education Program (IFSP/IEP) processes. Students may have other disabilities in addition to vision loss.

Eligibility: To be eligible for VI services a student must have a visual impairment which, even with correction, adversely affects a student's educational performance. Visually impaired students are classified as either functionally blind or with low vision.

VI Programs/Services Options:

- **Itinerant Program** - Students who are enrolled in general education, other special education and community placements, receive educational support from a VI-credentialed teacher.
- **Resource Room Program** - Students are enrolled in general education classrooms located at select elementary, middle, and high school campuses where they receive support from a site-based VI-credentialed teacher.
- **Preschool Program** - Students enrolled in a full-day preschool program that is designed to address their unique needs due to the visual impairment and receive support from a site-based VI-credentialed teacher.
- **State Special School** - Students can be referred to the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA and receive comprehensive assessment services and, if eligible, be considered for residential school programs.

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SUMMARY

- ❖ The VI Program office is located in the Clairemont area at the Special Education Administration Program Support Satellite, B-3, 4435 Ute Drive, San Diego, CA 92117.
- ❖ Approximately 260 students and their families are served.
- ❖ The VI Resource Rooms are located at Bay Park Elementary School, Marston Middle School, and Clairemont High School.
- ❖ Transportation is provided if a student is identified as eligible for services at one of the VI Resource Rooms.
- ❖ Staff includes VI teachers, Orientation & Mobility specialists, psychologist, and paraeducators with Braille competency for support in the classroom.
- ❖ Certified Braille Transcribers are available to transcribe printed materials into the appropriate Braille format.



- **Orientation and Mobility** - Students are provided instruction in safe travel skills and the necessary concept development to assure maximum independence on the school campus and in the community.
- **Curricular Adaptations/Assistive Technology** - Students have access to enlarged print in a variety of fonts and print sizes; Braille; tactual adaptations of graphs, charts, and pictures; taped texts; closed circuit televisions; computers with screen magnification or screen reader software; Braille notetaking devices; and a variety of specialized kits.

Transition: Support is provided at all levels of transition, between grades and between schools as well as from school to career.

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Contact Information: Low Incidence Program Office: (858) 490-8451
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Serving nearly 136,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 202 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.