\*Tracked changes version follows the clean copy

**Clean Copy**

581-015-2180

Visual Impairment

(1) Definition of Visual Impairment: For Early Intervention, Early Childhood and School Age Special Education, “Visual Impairment” means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects an infant or toddler’s development or a child’s educational performance. The term visual impairment includes low vision, total blindness, limited visual acuity after correction, restricted visual field, and progressive eye conditions.

(2) Comprehensive Evaluation: If a child is suspected of having a visual impairment, a comprehensive evaluation must be conducted for Early Intervention, Early Childhood or School Age Special Education services, including the following:

(a) Documentation of a vision assessment as defined in OAR 581-015-2000. The documentation should indicate whether:

(A) The child has a vision impairment that is uncorrectable by medical treatment, therapy or lenses; or

(B) The vision examination results are inconclusive, and the child demonstrates inadequate use of residual vision;

(b) A functional vision assessment conducted by a teacher of the visually impaired to identify the child's educational and compensatory needs, including a functional assessment of the child's residual visual acuity or field of vision; and

(c) Any additional assessments determined by the evaluation team to be necessary to determine the impact of the suspected disability:

(A) On the child's educational performance for a school-age child (age 3 to 21); or

(B) On the child's developmental progress for an infant or toddler, or preschool child (age birth to 5).

(3) Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible as a child with a visual impairment for Early Intervention, Early Childhood or School Age Special Education services, the child must meet the minimum criteria:

1. The child has a visual impairment including blindness; and
2. The impairment in vision, even with correction, adversely affects a child’s educational performance.

(4) Eligibility Determination:For a child to be eligible for special education services as a child with visual impairment, the eligibility team must determine that:

(a) The child has a visual impairment as defined in this rule; and

(b) The child is eligible for services in accordance with Early Intervention (OAR 581-015-2780), Early Childhood special education (OAR 581-015-2795), or School Age special education (OAR 581-015-2120).

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