



Inspiring Change for People  
with Disabilities

# Getting Ready for the Annual Federal Quota Census

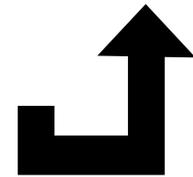
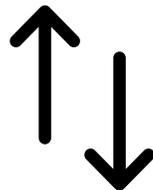
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Exceptional Children



# Objectives

- Learn about the eligibility guidelines for the 2026 Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students.
- Learn how to register qualifying students through the online registration system, including important due dates.
- Learn how to request accessible educational materials, through the online registration system.
  - Register – Request/Receive – Repair – Return



# Federal Quota Overview

- Federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind
- Supplemental funding - access to the curriculum
- Register yearly
  - If the student transfers, they are still registered for the year
  - Deafblind Census & Federal Quota
- Includes public, private and homeschool students
- No chronological age limit for students



# Register



# Eligibility Guidelines

For students to be eligible for registration in the Federal Quota Program, they **MUST** meet the criteria in the following areas:

1. Enrollment
2. Vision Functioning Classification
3. Have a written education plan
4. Parent permission



# Enrollment

Be enrolled in a formally organized public or private nonprofit educational program of less than college level including

- students in public, private and parochial schools
- students who are deafblind
- students with multiple disabilities who are blind or visually impaired
- students enrolled in regular education or special education programs



# Eligible Student Groups

- Infants/Birth to Age Three
- Preschool Children
- School Age Students
- Homebound Students and Home-Schooled Students
- Adult



# Vision Functioning Classifications

- One of two categories
  - Meets the Definition of Blindness (**MDB**)
  - Functions at the Definition of Blindness (**FDB**)
- **IF NEITHER are met, students may also be eligible because they:**
  - Qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) definition of visual impairment: an impairment in vision, that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance (34 CFR §300.8(c)(13)).



# Meets Definition of Blindness - MDB

- Have a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best correction (using the Snellen Chart) **OR** a visual field of 20 degrees or less



# Meets Definition of Blindness – MDB (2)

- Documentation Required – verified medical documentation using Snellen or Snellen equivalent
- Age Applicability – birth through adult
- MDB is not used to determine eligibility per federal IDEA for blind and visually impaired
- Educational assessment not accepted for MDB category



# Functions at Definition of Blindness - FDB

- When visual function meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye care specialist (ophthalmologist or optometrist) or a medical doctor such as a neurologist. Students in this category manifest unique visual characteristics often found in conditions referred to as neurological, cortical, or cerebral visual impairment (e.g., brain injury or dysfunction).



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# IDEA eligibility

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) definition of blindness: an impairment in vision, that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance (34 CFR §300.8(c)(13)).



# IDEA eligibility (2)

- Documentation required – comprehensive evaluation using **multiple data sources** (vision report, functional vision assessment (FVA), learning media assessment (LMA), classroom data)
- Age Applicability: up to age 22
- Register IDEA **ONLY** if **MDB** and **FDB** are not met



# Federal Quota Paperwork

Districts must have on file:

- Parent Permission
- The educational program remains responsible for utilizing multiple sources of data, including any available eye report or doctor note, to determine if a student qualifies under MDB, FDB, or IDEA definition of visual impairment
- Educational plan (IFSP, IEP, 504)



# Eligibility Scenarios



# Scenario #1

- 12-year-old student, with significant additional disabilities
- Student has an IEP under the multiple disabilities category
- Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired suspects the student may have a Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)
- Visual acuity is reported as 20/200 in both eyes without correction on medical paperwork from Ophthalmologist, no specific ocular condition is noted
- Parents signed the parental permission for APH



# Scenario #1 Answer

Answer: The student should be registered under the APH category of MDB, because:

- the visual acuity meets the MDB definition
- they have a signed parent permission form, and
- they have a written educational plan (IEP plan)



# Scenario #2

- 8-year-old with student with Congenital Cataracts
- Visual acuity 20/70 OU (both eyes) with best correction, student has no visual field loss
- Student meets the definition of IDEA for visual impairment
- Parents signed the parental permission for APH
- Parents declined services under IDEA in favor of a 504 plan



# Scenario #2 Answer

Answer: The student should be registered under the APH category of IDEA, because:

- **they did meet eligibility criteria per IDEA,**
- they have a signed parent permission form, and
- they have a written educational plan (504 plan)



# Scenario #3

- 9-month-old infant with Severe Optic Nerve Atrophy
- No measurable visual acuity; ophthalmologist report confirms no light perception OU (both eyes) and confirms the child functions at the definition of blindness
- Functional vision assessment shows no visual response to bright light or movement
- Child has an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and receives early intervention services



# Scenario #3 Answer

Answer: The student should be registered under the APH category of FDB, because:

- Doctor provided documentation indicating FDB
- Visual acuity is unable to be measured so MDB is unable to be used
- they are enrolled in an educational program
- they have a written educational plan (IFSP)
- \*parent permission would still be needed



# Online Registration Portal

**OCALI**  
AT&AEM Center

**OCALI**  
AT&AEM Center

**Log In**

Email

Password

**Log In**

[Forgot Password](#) [Need an account? Sign Up](#)

**Need Help?**  
View this video for a quick tutorial on how to register eligible legally blind students for Federal Quota funds. [Federal Quota Census Registration Tutorial](#)  
View this video for a quick tutorial on how to request materials using the request portal. [Materials Request Tutorial](#)

[About OCALI](#) [About AT&AEM Center](#) [AT&AEM Center Promotional](#) [APH Catalogs](#) [Louis Database](#) [Bookshare Ally](#) [Learning Ally](#) [NIMAC](#) [Browse Lending Library Resources](#)

**REGISTER. REQUEST. RECEIVE.**

<https://ohioaem.ataem.org/>

## Submissions

- 1 Incomplete**  
[District A](#)
- 2 Pending Review**  
[District A](#)
- 3 Ready for Signature**  
[District A](#)
- 4 Completed**  
[District A](#)

## Federal Quota

At the direction of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Office for Exceptional Children, the AT&AEM Center conducts the annual Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students for Ohio. Each year in December, the AT&AEM Center notifies superintendents and/or agency directors, requesting them to register each qualifying student who is blind or visually impaired, and attending school in their district as of the first Monday in January.

[Learn more about the Federal Quota](#)

### Need Help?

View this video for a quick tutorial on how to register eligible blind or visually impaired students for Federal Quota funds. [Federal Quota Census Registration Tutorial](#)

## Census Closed

Edits to any district registration cannot be made while the census is closed. If you have further questions, please contact [fqaemsupport@ataem.org](mailto:fqaemsupport@ataem.org).

# Designees for registration

Who can be a designee for their districts/agency?

- A designee could be a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI), Office Support Staff, Special Education Directors, etc.

How do you become a designee for a district?

- The district/agency superintendent can email [fqaemsupport@ataem.org](mailto:fqaemsupport@ataem.org) to appoint a designee and allow them to have access to assist with registration.



# Who registers the students?

- Public & private schools
- District of attendance vs. district of residence
  - Educational Service Centers
  - County Boards of Developmental Disabilities
  - Ohio State School for the Blind

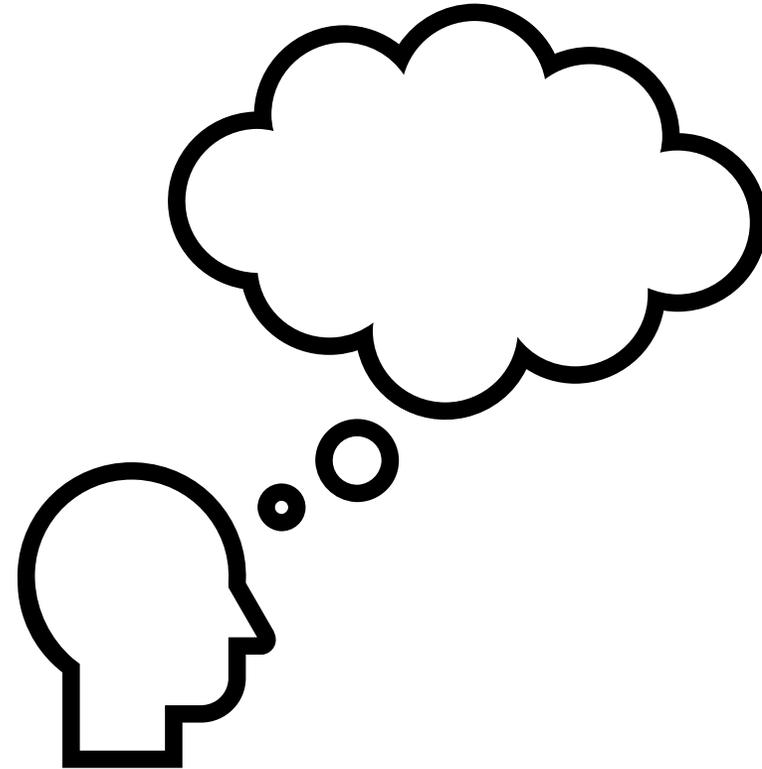


# Electronic Signature

- Only electronic signatures by the superintendent will be accepted
- Registration is not complete until the superintendent has provided their signature
- If there are no students to report, the superintendent can sign without waiting on approval
- Once the superintendent electronically signs, save a copy to keep on file.
- Then submit



# Registration Scenarios



# Registration Scenario #1

- A 12-year-old transferred to OSSB full time this school year
- They are eligible under MDB
- A new parent permission form has been signed

Should the District of Residence or OSSB register the student?

OSSB would register the student because they receive over 50% of their services in that placement



# Registration Scenario #2

- A 10-year-old student is home-schooled and resides within the district boundaries.
- He meets the IDEA definition of visual impairment.

Is he eligible to be registered for Federal Quota?

- If the district/state recognizes the home school program and student has an educational plan, the student should be registered
- A parent permission form will need to be signed
- School registers the student



# Registration Scenario #3

- A student spends the school day attending the County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CBDD) program, which is located out of their district of residence.
- They qualify under FDB
- Parent is willing to sign the parent permission form

Should the District of Residence or CBDD register the student?

CBDD program would register the student because they receive over 50% of their services in that placement. In this scenario the CBDD is responsible for registering the student.



# Registration Scenario #4

- A 2-year-old child meets the definition of blindness under IDEA.
- Her family receives early intervention services through the local County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CBDD).

Should the child's school district or the CBDD register 0-3 children for Federal Quota?

The agency providing early intervention services (in this case, the local CBDD) is responsible for registering the child for Federal Quota. The school district does not register children ages 0–3 unless they are directly providing early intervention services.



# What can districts expect?

Superintendent letter

Emailed Mid-December - from [federalquotaregistration@ataem.org](mailto:federalquotaregistration@ataem.org)

Online registration

Begins: First Monday of January

Ends: Last Friday of February

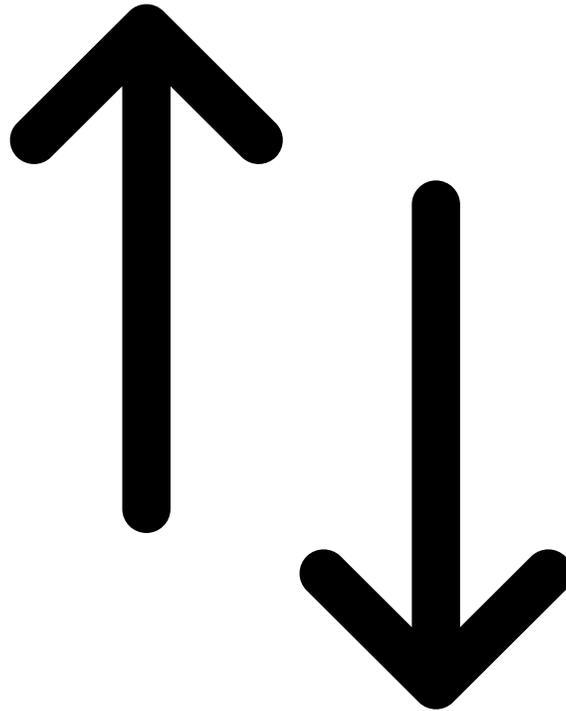


# Census Reminders

1. Update any school email address changes during the year
2. Update any staff transition changes during the year
3. Need support: [fqaemsupport@ataem.org](mailto:fqaemsupport@ataem.org)



# Request/Receive



## Clearinghouse

Submit AEM Requests for the 2020-2021 school year now.

Multiple sources supply accessible educational materials (AEM) however, not all students are eligible to receive materials from each source. Furthermore, some students may need more than one specialized format and they may need materials from multiple sources. The AT&AEM Center can assist you in the process of obtaining specialized formats from the AT&AEM Center Clearinghouse and other sources.

[Browse Clearinghouse Resources](#)

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[NIMAC](#)

[Browse Lending Library  
Resources](#)



Department  
of Education



# Requesting Materials

- Current orders
- Recent requested items
- One large ticket item per census year
- Equipment Justification Survey (Large Ticket items)



# Equipment Justification Survey

- What are you requesting?
- Does it match the need for the student's reading mediums listed?
- Has your team completed an AT Assessment that led to this decision?
- Has a trial been completed?
- Does the data justify the request?

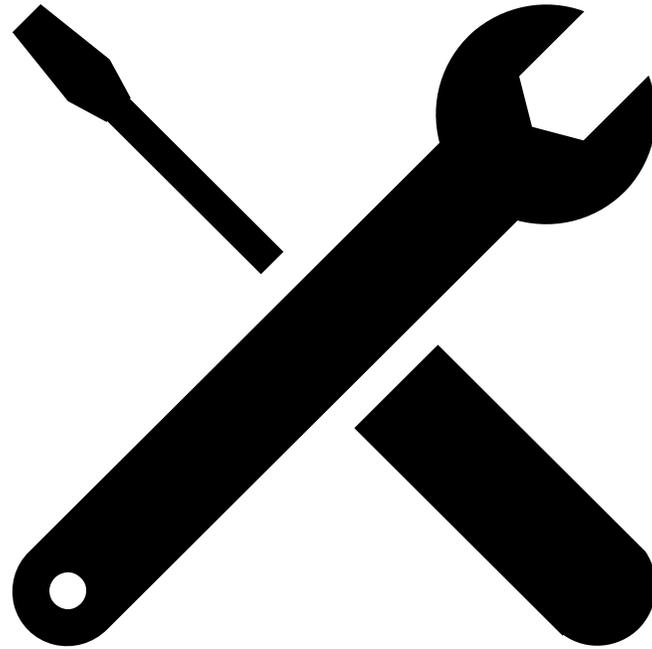


# Ohio AT Lending Libraries

- OCALI Lending Library
- [AT Ohio](#)
- [Regional Specialty Libraries](#)
- Demonstration Device Loan: Lending library in every state, [AT Act Programs](#)
- Public Libraries
- Vendors



# Repairing



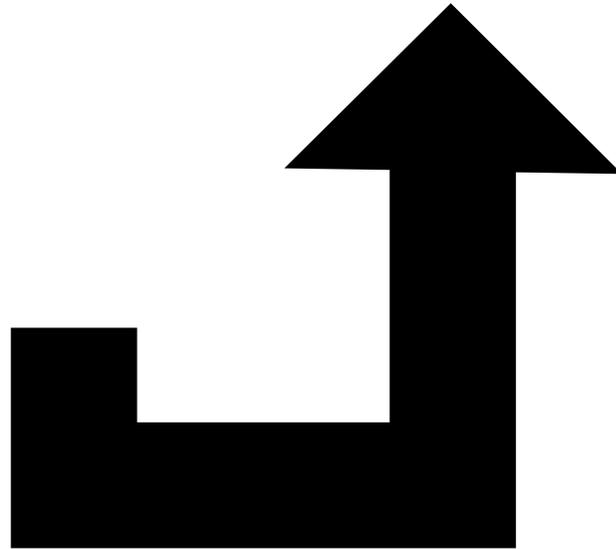
# Repairing Equipment

## Guidance

1. Braille Repair - AT&AEM Center has two volunteers
2. Device Repair - AT&AEM Center can guide you through the repair process as not all repairs go directly to the American Printing House for the Blind.
3. Contact us at [aemrequests@ataem.org](mailto:aemrequests@ataem.org) for guidance through this process.



# Returning



# Returning and Transferring Equipment

## Assigning

- Assign the equipment to the student it was ordered for

## Returning

- If equipment will not be used during the next school year, please return it before summer break.
- High-Tech equipment such as the Jupiter, Pix and Page Blasters are to be sent by UPS or FedEx at the cost of the district in the original packaging or packed with care to prevent damage.

## Transferring

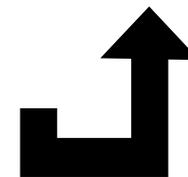
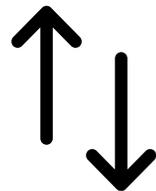
- Equipment can be transferred to another student.
- Material and/or equipment should follow the student if transferring to a different district within Ohio (unless the student no longer uses the materials or device)



# Objectives Review

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Register – Request/Receive – Repair – Return



# Contact Information and Questions?

- Census: [fqaemsupport@ataem.org](mailto:fqaemsupport@ataem.org)
- Material requests: [aemrequests@ataem.org](mailto:aemrequests@ataem.org)

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