**CIMC – Legal Blindness Guidance Document for the January Federal Quota Census**

**MDB - Meets the Definition of Blindness**

As defined in The Act: “Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses or a peripheral field so contracted that the widest diameter of such field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.

In simpler terms: 20/200 acuity, or worse, with correction, in the better eye. Vision loss in one eye only does not qualify as legal blindness. Or, a visual field of 20 degrees or less.

**FDB - Functions at the Definition of Blindness**

As defined in The Act: “When visual performance is reduced by a brain injury or dysfunction when visual function meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye care specialist or neurologist. Students in this category manifest unique visual characteristics often found in conditions referred to as neurological, cortical, or cerebral visual impairment.”

**Eye Reports:**

OD right eye

OS left eye

OU both eyes

**Acronyms Found on Eye Reports:**

BTL blinks to light

CF can mean “counts fingers” or confrontation field

CSM central, steady, maintained fixation

CSUM central, steady, unmaintained fixation

CVI cerebral visual impairment, cortical visual impairment

F&F fix & follow vision

HM hand motion or hand movement

LP light perception

NLP no light perception

OP object perception

UTT unable to test

**Visual Acuity:**

The numerator is the distance, in feet, between the subject and the chart.

The denominator is the distance at which a person with 20/20 vision would discern the same optotype (a picture or a letter on an eye chart).

**Visual Acuity with Best Correction:**

Remember, we are talking about visual acuity in the better eye with best optical correction in place. We are not talking about what the acuity is when the student is not wearing their prescription spectacles.

A **Snellen chart** has the following acuities:

20/20

20/25

20/30

20/40

20/50

20/70

20/100

20/200

Visual acuity, with best correction, is documented using Snellen Chart notation. In order to establish **legal blindness**, Snellen chart notation must indicate that the individual’s **visual acuity is 20/200 or less (worse)** – with best correction, in the better eye. Vision loss in one eye does not classify an individual as legally blind.

Other distance visual acuity test charts exist that have additional incremental lines that measure visual acuity between 20/100 and 20/200, such as the Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS) chart.

If the individual can read at least one letter on the 20/100 line, with correction, then the individual is not classified as legally blind.

For example, if an individual’s best-corrected visual acuity for distance in the better eye was determined to be 20/200+1 using a Snellen chart that means they correctly identified one letter on the next better (20/100) line.

Another example: If a student’s best-corrected visual acuity for distance in the better eye was determined to be 20/125+1 on an ETDRS chart that means the student correctly identified one letter on the 20/100 line and they would not be classified as legally blind.

If an individual is not able to accurately identify even one letter of the 20/100 line, but can read letters on a line between 20/100 and 20/200 on a non-Snellen chart – then the eye doctor would convert that acuity to a **“Snellen equivalent”** of 20/200 and the individual could be eligible for the federal quota census. We have tried to give examples of this in the table below.

**Distance Acuities:**

Red font: Acuity is better than legally blind - NOT quota eligible.

Blue font: “Snellen equivalent” of legal blindness – quota eligible.

Green font: Acuity “meets the definition of blindness” (MDB) - quota eligible.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Snellenacuity chart | ETDRSacuity chart | (one example of a low vision acuity chart) |
| 20/16 |  | 20/16 |  |
| 20/20 | 20/20 | 20/20 | 20/20 |
| 20/25 |  | 20/25 |  |
| 20/30 | 20/30 |  |  |
| 20/32 |  | 20/32 |  |
| 20/40 | 20/40 | 20/40 | 20/40 |
| 20/50 | 20/50 | 20/50 | 20/50 |
| 20/63 |  | 20/63 | 20/60 |
| 20/70 | 20/70 |  |  |
| 20/80 |  | 20/80 | 20/80 |
| 20/100 | 20/100 | 20/100 |  |
| 20/120 |  |  | 20/120 |
| 20/125 |  | 20/125 |  |
| 20/160 |  | 20/160 | 20/160 |
| 20/200 | 20/200 | 20/200 | 20/200 |
| 20/240 |  |  | 20/240 |
| 20/280 |  |  | 20/280 |
| 20/320 |  |  | 20/320 |
| 20/360 |  |  | 20/360 |
| 20/400 |  |  | 20/400 |
| 20/500 |  |  | 20/500 |
| 20/600 |  |  | 20/600 |
| 20/700 |  |  | 20/700 |
| 20/800 |  |  | 20/800 |
| 20/1200 |  |  | 20/1200 |
| 20/1400 |  |  | 20/1400 |

Here is a similar list, not in a table format:

20/20 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/25 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/30 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/32 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/40 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/50 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/60 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/63 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/70 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/80 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/100 Not legally blind. Not quota eligible.

20/120 Yes, quota eligible. (if Snellen equivalent of legal blindness)

20/125 Yes, quota eligible. (if Snellen equivalent of legal blindness)

20/140 Yes, quota eligible. (if Snellen equivalent of legal blindness)

20/160 Yes, quota eligible. (if Snellen equivalent of legal blindness)

20/200 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/225 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/300 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/320 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/350 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/400 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/500 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/600 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/630 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/700 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/800 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

20/1000 Yes, legally blind. Quota eligible

**The following could generally be considered to represent a level of acuity that is legally blind:**

NLP no light perception

LP light perception

OP object perception

HM hand motion or hand movement

CF counts fingers (if the eye report refers to “confrontation field”,

this does not automatically determine eligibility)

**The following items frequently listed on eye exam notes DO NOT automatically mean the student is legally blind. More information is needed from an Optometrist/Ophthalmologist to determine quota eligibility:**

BTL blinks to light

CF can mean confrontation field or counts fingers

CSM central, steady, maintained fixation

CSUM central, steady, unmaintained fixation

CVI cerebral visual impairment, cortical visual impairment

F&F fix & follow vision

UTT unable to test