



2022 APH Federal Quota Definition and Eligibility Criteria Definitions

APH Federal Quota Program

The system through which these specialized materials are distributed is known as the Federal Quota Program. Through it, textbooks and instructional aids are provided free for eligible students who are blind and visually impaired in educational settings that range from early intervention programs for visually impaired infants to rehabilitation for elders who have age-related vision loss, from center-based and residential school programs to the regular classroom. *Note that there is no chronological age limitation for Federal Quota registration.*

How does the Federal Quota Program work?

As prescribed by the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind, Congress makes an annual appropriation for the provision of the special Federal Quota materials. This appropriation is divided by the total number of eligible students registered in educational programs on the first Monday of the preceding January and of adult clients enrolled in rehabilitation and/or vocational programs during the preceding calendar year. This division results in a per capita amount of money that is then multiplied by the number of eligible students in each Federal Quota account. The resulting total is credited to each respective account, thus establishing each agency's annual "Quota" funds. *By law, the sole use of Quota funds is for the purchase of APH materials for registered students and adults.*

Who is eligible?

The determination of eligible students and the distribution of materials available to them using Federal Quota funds follows a distinctive and very effective model.

In order to determine who is eligible for Federal Quota materials, an annual national census is taken. The effective date of this registration is the first Monday in January of each year for infants, preschool, and school-aged students.

How are eligible students counted?

Ex Officio Trustees (EOTs) are responsible for collecting, compiling, and submitting to APH, via the Student Registration System (SRS), the annual census of eligible students. LEAs and agencies select their designee to complete the digital paperwork for the 2022 APH Federal Quota Census count in Wisconsin.

2022 APH Federal Quota Program Eligibility of Infants and School-Aged Children

- **Meet the definition of blindness (MDB)** – a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less (using a Snellen chart or an acuity determined in Snellen equivalents) in the better eye with the best correction or a peripheral field of vision no greater than 20 degrees

OR

- **Function at the definition of blindness (FDB)**—when visual function meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye care specialist (ophthalmologist or optometrist) or other 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).
- **Eligible infants (birth to three)** can be registered if they are enrolled in a formally organized, regularly scheduled educational or training program and have a written education plan. An individualized family service plan (IFSP) or any other written plan may be used. They can be registered with a note from their pediatrician, or any eye care specialist, stating they meet the definition of blindness since an actual acuity is impossible to obtain at this age. When the child turns three, a new, official eye report from their eye care specialist, (optometrist/ophthalmologist) must be obtained with acuities to determine if they meet the definition of blindness, or from their neurologist if they function at the definition of blindness due to a brain injury. Parent permissions are required for all students in the birth to three age group.
- Infants, preschool, and school-aged students must be enrolled with the registering school or agency on the first Monday in January.
- Be enrolled in a formally organized public or private, nonprofit educational program of less than college level.
- Eligible children (preschool through high school) can be registered if they are enrolled in a formally organized, regularly scheduled educational or training program and have a written education plan. An IFSP, an individualized education program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or any other written education plan may be used.
- When the child turns three, a new, official eye report from their eye care specialist, (optometrist/ophthalmologist) must be obtained with acuities or visual fields to determine if they meet the definition of blindness (MDB), or from their neurologist if they function at the definition of blindness (FDB) due to a brain injury. Parent permissions are required for all students in preschool through their eighteenth birthday. If the child has a guardian, a parent permission (FERPA Release of Information) is still required no matter the age. This release must be updated from the district or agency the student is receiving services from and should be kept on file within the district or agency.