



## 2023 APH Federal Quota FAQ Definition and Eligibility Criteria Definitions

### APH Federal Quota Program

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) offers specially designed learning materials for blind and visually impaired students. The system through which these specialized materials are distributed is known as the Federal Quota Program. Through it, textbooks and instructional aides 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. For students to be counted in the census as eligible for registration in the Federal Quota Program, they **MUST** meet the requirements as outlined in the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind.

### 2023 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 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 blindness or low vision (e.g., brain injury or dysfunction).
  - **NOTE:** Educational vision assessments are not acceptable documentation and medical diagnosis are not accepted to verify eligibility.
  - **NOTE:** Once again, as in the 2021 and the 2022 Census, the requirement for an eye report (MDB) or a doctor's note (FDB) has been waived for the 2023 Census due to COVID.
- School-aged students including infants, toddlers and preschool students must be enrolled with the registering school or agency on the first Monday in January. Adult students must be registered for at least three months of instruction during the preceding calendar year (an accumulation of 12 weeks\*).
- 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.
- Parent/legal guardian permissions for students 18 and under and those with a guardian of any age.
- The educational programs providing services to these students can include public, private, and parochial schools as well as vocational and rehabilitation programs for true adults.
- There is **NO chronological age limit for eligibility**. Federal law limits registration to persons working at less than college level but places no restriction on the ages of eligible students.
- **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 preschool through their eighteenth birthday. If the individual 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.

## How are eligible students counted?

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.

### **IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR APH FEDERAL QUOTA MATERIALS FROM WCBVI OUTREACH, STUDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED ON THE WISCONSIN FEDERAL QUOTA CENSUS EACH YEAR.**

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 2023 APH Federal Quota Census count in Wisconsin. In the Act to Promote the Blind for the APH Federal Quota Program, information is to be obtained through an LEA or other organization rather than through individual teachers, so WCBVI EOTs are obligated to send the APH information via the LEAs rather than directly to TVIs.

Messaging regarding the Annual Census is shared via our WCBVI Outreach Weekly Updates (which TVIs, LEAs, SEDs and agency leads can sign up for) as well as the DPI Special Education Updates Division for Learning Support (DLS) Newsletter (which all the LEAs and SEDs receive weekly). We also email the LEAs and SEDs directly with the initial information and a reminder to complete the designation.

## How are APH Materials accessed?

You may access many of these materials through the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WCBVI) Outreach Program, for students who are formally registered through the APH Federal Quota Program in Wisconsin.

- APH CONSUMABLE materials such as early literacy braille and tactile books, braille and bold line paper, folders, braille writing tools, and tactile stickers are available through WCBVI to eligible children and students.
- Some of the APH CAPITAL EQUIPMENT items available through WCBVI include light boxes and braille writers.
- APH HIGH COST TECHNOLOGY devices also may be available for short term loan through WCBVI. Loan periods vary in length but are intended to provide school districts with a cost-effective method of testing products prior to committing district funds to purchase them for students.

Educational reading materials in braille, large print and digital options may be available to eligible children and students as well.

Many products in areas of the core curriculum and Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) are also available and include (but are not limited to):

- English and Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Health, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Vocational Education, Physical Education
- Communication Modes and Literacy, Sensory Efficiency and Low Vision, Orientation and Mobility, Assistive Technology, Career Education and Transition, Daily Living and Social Interaction/Self Determination, Recreation and Leisure

## **To research APH Federal Quota Materials available through WCBVI Outreach:**

1. Explore APH at: <https://www.aph.org> and the APH Product Catalog at: [APH Catalogs: Products, Parts and APH Press | American Printing House](#)
2. Follow WCBVI APH Consumables and Capital Equipment Procedures at: [Accessible Educational Materials Center – Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired \(wcbvi.k12.wi.us\)](#)
3. For APH Census Forms and Information: <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/aph/>