

INTERMEDIATE UNIT I VISION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Vision Severity Rating Scale for Students with Additional Impairments

Purpose and Development

The *Vision Severity Rating Scale for Students with Additional Impairments* is designed to provide consistency and objectivity among teachers or students with visual impairments as well as the type and amount of vision services required. It is primarily intended for use with students who have additional moderate to profound impairments. Choice of appropriate frequency of service will be documented by data and substantiated by the Vision Severity Rating Scale for Students with Additional Impairments.

The Severity Rating Scale consists of the following seven categories:

- Visual Status
- Functional Visual Status
- Response to Stimulation/Instruction
- Educational Need
- Educational Growth
- Potential for Improved Use of Vision
- Physical Independence

This scale is sequentially structured, based upon a student's need for intervention by a teacher of students with visual impairments and the classroom teacher's need for assistance, rather than the severity of the child's handicapping conditions.

Each of the seven categories is structured in terms of impact of visual functioning upon the student's educational program. When using the Severity Rating Scale, the criteria provided are not all-inclusive; therefore, the teacher of students with visual impairments is encouraged to refer to additional resources.

Professional Judgment Factors

On occasion the professional judgment of the teacher of students with visual impairments can influence the selection of a service delivery model that has been determined by the Severity Rating. A choice of one or more of the Professional Judgment Factors on the Vision Severity Summary may be used to place a student at a higher or lower level frequency of service delivery than indicated by the Severity Rating alone.

The use of the Professional Judgment Factors may be necessary when it appears that the frequency of service delivery indicated by the Severity Rating does not reflect the true needs of the visually impaired student. Based upon the professional judgment of the teacher of students with visual impairments, all factors that influence a modification of the frequency of service delivery for Students with Additional Impairments should be marked.

The following factors are to be considered:

1. Age of student
2. Materials/equipment required
3. School personnel support needed
4. Transition to a new school/building
5. Additional support provided
6. Parent concern/input
7. Attendance
8. Progressive condition
9. Other (e.g., educational placement, additional impairments)

Remember, each of these factors may be either positive or negative and should be marked if modifying a service delivery rating.