
DATE: December 27, 2017

TO: Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services, Birth to Three Program Coordinators, and Parents of Students in Home-Based Private Education Programs

FROM: Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Assistant State Superintendent, DPI Division for Learning Support
Barbara Van Haren, Director, DPI Special Education Team

SUBJECT: **January 1, 2018 Census of Blind Students for the Federal Quota Program**

Important news related to schools and agencies serving students who are blind or visually impaired: Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired, and attend your schools, are eligible to obtain specialized educational materials and equipment from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) utilizing funds allocated annually by Congress to the Federal Quota Program.

The Federal Quota Program is administered by APH and the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) Division for Learning Support. Last year, Wisconsin had over \$294,000 allocated to purchase these materials on behalf of districts and students.

In order to receive these materials on loan under the Federal Quota Program, a student must be:

- 1) reported to DPI through the annual census and found (or continue to be) eligible for inclusion on the APH Registry of Blind Students;
- 2) certified as legally or functionally blind by an eye specialist or neurologist who examined the student's vision within the past three years, unless exempt; and
- 3) enrolled in a birth-to-three program, public or private nonprofit school of less than college level, a registered home school, or vocational-technical adult education program **as of January 1, 2018.**

***Note that beginning this year all students must have on file a signed parent FERPA release of information for the district/agency to share the required student information for registry. A separate mailing was sent in early November regarding this requirement, and information is also included in this mailing.**

Eligibility requirements, necessary documentation, reporting codes and filing information are contained within the green instruction pages accompanying the census packet.

Important note: Please promptly forward the enclosed information to the vision program coordinator or teacher of the visually impaired for completion. Registrations must be submitted no later than February 16, 2018.

If you have any questions about the Census process or student eligibility for the Federal Quota Program, **please email the Census Coordinator at aphcensus@wcbvi.k12.wi.us** or EOT Administrative Assistant Mandy Jordan at (608) 758-6141, amanda.jordan@wcbvi.k12.wi.us; or contact WCBVI Director Peter Dally at (608) 758-4925, pete.dally@wcbvi.k12.wi.us or Outreach Director Dawn Soto at (608) 758-6145, dawn.soto@wcbvi.k12.wi.us. If you have questions regarding ordering APH materials contact Marilyn Connolly at (608) 758-6146, marilyn.connolly@wcbvi.k12.wi.us.