

# **NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED Academic Year 2024-2025**

## **Level 3 Services**

As appropriate, Level 3 Services may be provided to students for whom braille will be their primary reading medium. This level of service is intended for students who require a) instruction in braille readiness and/or the braille alphabet, leading to Literary Braille Code instruction within a year, b) long-term instruction in the Contracted Braille Code, with extended practice and reinforcement of lessons, or c) on-going instruction in other braille codes and adaptive academic skills. The Commission instructor will base eligibility on assessment.

An instructor who possesses a valid certification as a Teacher of the Blind or Visually Impaired issued by the New Jersey Department of Education will provide two to three lessons per week. A lesson will consist of direct instruction for one academic period, up to a maximum of one hour. School staff must provide an appropriate work area in which instruction is to take place, in an appropriate academic environment.

### **Instruction in the Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments**

Instruction in appropriate skills of the *Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with V.I.* will be provided to enable the inclusion of Braille learners into classroom education programs. Instruction may include the following skills, as determined to be appropriate following assessment by the Commission instructor.

1. Braille readiness skills, leading to formal braille instruction during the school year
2. Symbols and usage of the Uncontracted Braille Code appropriate for the student's academic reading level
3. Symbols and usage of the Contracted Braille Code appropriate for the student's academic reading level
4. Symbols and usage of the Nemeth Braille Code appropriate for the student's academic math level
5. Braille writing skills (Use of Braille Codes, Perkins Braille Writer, slate and stylus)
6. Tactual skills related to use of manipulative educational materials
7. Adaptive math skills, including use of abacus and math manipulatives
8. Symbols and usage of Foreign Language Braille Codes as appropriate for participation in classroom programs
9. Audio-reading skills, including listening skills and use/procurement of audio-books.
10. Assistive Technology skills (use of screen readers, electronic note-takers, talking dictionaries, etc.), and appropriate care/maintenance of equipment
11. Organizational and study skills related to use of adaptive media and equipment
12. Use and procurement of reader services
13. Independent living/Life management skills

### **Technical Assistance and Consultative Services**

Technical assistance and consultative services will be provided to school personnel, students and families regarding issues related to vision loss, and their impact on the educational process and independent living. This may include:

1. Consultation with school staff regarding:
  - educational modifications, materials and techniques for classroom instruction
  - social expectations and skills
  - assessment materials and techniques
  - characteristics of an efficient classroom environment
  - Life Management Skills

2. Consultation with family regarding:
  - appropriate educational modifications, materials and techniques for classroom and homework tasks
  - social expectations and skills
  - assessment materials and techniques
  - Life Management Skills for home and school
  - use of community and recreational resources appropriate for visually impaired children
3. Limited braille transcription of teacher-made tests, quizzes, and materials when determined to be appropriate by the Commission instructor when materials are provided in a timely manner by the school.
4. Funding for reader services.
5. Recommends and refers for appropriate specialized evaluations and services from other Commission personnel, according to Commission policies and service availability. These non-educational non-contracted services may include Orientation and Mobility, Independent Living and Adaptive Technology.
6. Extends an invitation to recreational events and transitional programs sponsored by the Commission.

### **Loan of Adaptive Aids, Materials and Equipment**

The Commission Instructor will recommend appropriate adaptive material and equipment, and will order items available from the Commission's Instructional Resource Center. Instruction related to use of adaptive equipment will be offered as needed to provide blind or visually impaired students with equivalent educational experiences. Needed equipment may be provided for home and school per Commission policy.

School staff is responsible for tracking items lent by the Commission to the student, and providing accessible but safe storage for equipment. Replacement of lost items may be requested per Commission policy.

The loan of items may include:

1. Available texts and educational materials in an accessible media (braille, large print, or audio-format). Book orders must be submitted in a timely manner and will be provided per Commission policy.
2. Adaptive education equipment including:
  - Adaptive writing equipment, such as Perkins braillewriter, slate and stylus, Braille paper, etc.
  - Specialized CD player/recorder for adaptive audio-books
  - Adaptive tactile aids and manipulatives needed for participation in classroom academics, such as talking calculators, talking dictionaries, abacus, tactile maps, math aids, etc.
  - Closed Circuit Television or other low vision aids, as indicated by a low vision evaluation
  - Assistive Technology devices, such as electronic note-takers, screen readers, netbooks and adaptive software.
3. Other related items appropriate for student's educational program.
4. Adaptive materials/equipment for performance of independent living tasks.