

# NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

## Academic Year 2024-2025

### Level 4 Services

As appropriate, Level 4 Services may be provided to students who use braille as their primary reading medium. This level of service is intended for beginning readers who have mastered the braille alphabet, are participating in grade-level classroom reading programs, and are learning the Contracted Braille Code. Students must demonstrate a rate of learning that indicates a need for intensive, short-term instruction leading to mastery of the complete Literary Braille Code within one to two years. 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 four lessons/instructional support sessions per week. Lessons will be scheduled based upon student availability, school calendar, and instructor availability. A lesson will consist of direct instruction for one academic period, up to a maximum of one hour. Additional time utilized for instructional support may be counted in lieu of a missed lesson in the event of an instructor's absence. Lessons may also be provided by an Adaptive Technology specialist contracted by the Commission if appropriate for the student's program. 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. Symbols and usage of the Contracted Braille Code appropriate for the student's academic reading level
2. Symbols and usage of the Nemeth Braille Code appropriate for the student's academic math level
3. Braille writing skills (Use of Braille Codes, Perkins Braille Writer, slate and stylus).
4. Tactual skills related to use of manipulative educational materials.
5. Adaptive math skills, including use of abacus and math manipulatives.
6. Use of Foreign Language Braille Codes (symbols, signs and rules of usage) if appropriate.
7. Use of audio-reading skills, including listening skills and use and procurement of audio-books.
8. Assistive Technology skills (use of screen readers, electronic note-takers, talking dictionaries, etc.) and appropriate care/maintenance of equipment.
9. Organizational and study skills related to use of adaptive media and equipment
10. 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 technology 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:
  - educational modifications, materials and technology 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 blind or visually impaired children
3. Limited braille transcription of teacher-made tests, quizzes, and materials when determined to be appropriate by the Commission instructor, and when materials are provided in a timely manner by the school.
4. Funding for reader service.
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 in order to provide blind or visually impaired students with equivalent educational experiences. Adaptive equipment will be provided for home and school per Commission policy.

School staff is responsible for tracking items lent to the student by the Commission, and providing accessible but safe storage for equipment. Reimbursement or 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 requests must comply with Commission preparation timelines and will be provided per Commission policy.
2. Adaptive education equipment such as:
  - Adaptive writing equipment, such as Perkins braillewriter, slate and stylus, Braille paper, etc.
  - Specialized CD player/recorder for adaptive audio-books
  - Tactile aids and manipulatives needed for participation in classroom academics, such as talking calculators, speech-output dictionaries, abacus, tactile maps, math aids, etc.
  - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) or other low vision aids, as indicated by a Low Vision Evaluation and Commission policy
  - Adaptive Technology devices, such as electronic note-takers, netbook, screen readers, adaptive software.
3. Other adaptive items appropriate for student's individual educational program.
4. Adaptive materials/equipment for performance of independent living tasks.

