

# What is Federal Quota?

The Federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind was enacted by Congress in 1879. This act is a means for providing adapted educational materials to eligible students who meet the definition of blindness. An annual registration of eligible students determines a per capita amount of money designated for the purchase of educational materials produced by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). These funds are credited to Federal Quota accounts which are maintained and administered by APH and its Ex Officio Trustees throughout the country.

## Who is Eligible?

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In order for students to be eligible for registration in the Federal Quota Program, they **MUST** meet the following requirements:

- **Meet the Definition of Blindness (MDB)** - central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses or a peripheral field so contracted that the widest diameter of such field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees, or **Function at the Definition of Blindness (FDB)** which is visual performance reduced by brain injury or dysfunction when visual function meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye care specialist or neurologist.
- "be enrolled in a formally organized educational program of less than college level"
- School-aged students must be enrolled with the registering school or agency on the first Monday in January.

## How Does the Federal Quota Program Work?

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A Congressional appropriation, designated to provide educational materials for students who meet the definition of blindness, is made each October in the federal budget. This allotment is divided by the total number of eligible students and clients in educational or instructional programs at less than college levels on the first Monday of the preceding January. This division results in a per capita amount that is then multiplied by the number of registered students in each Federal Quota account. This amount is credited to each respective account, thus establishing each account's "quota" for the federal fiscal year.

By law, no part of the appropriation can be used for the erection or leasing of buildings or for the training of personnel. The Printing House must, out of its own funds, provide the buildings and equipment which are necessary for the production of the materials supplied through the Federal Quota Program.

## **What is available through the Federal Quota Program?**

A wide variety of specially designed and adapted materials are available from APH... core curriculum materials for teaching reading, social studies, mathematics, and science...materials for assessing and improving the use of low vision...expanded core curriculum materials for cultivating emergent literacy and concept development...for facilitating sensory, motor, and perceptual development, for developing self-help and prevocational skills. Other examples of available research-based materials are braille teaching programs, talking computer software, low vision development programs, infant intervention materials, and motor skills improvement kits.

Educational tools include adapted audio recording equipment, devices for writing braille, and talking computer hardware. Special supplies such as braille and bold-line papers, special binders and notebooks, and other consumable materials used in the classroom are also available.

## **How are eligible student counted?**

Each Ex Officio Trustee is responsible for collecting, compiling, and submitting to APH the annual census of eligible students. State departments of education are responsible for reporting students in public school programs.

For each student, the following information must be reported:

- Name (required)
- Date of birth (required)
- School system or agency in which student is enrolled (required)
- Grade Placement (required)
- Measurement of vision in right eye (required)
- Measurement of vision in left eye (required)
- Primary reading medium (required)
- Secondary reading level (required)
- Other or third reading medium (optional)
- Primary Language of Learner – NEW beginning with 2010 Census (required)

APH processes the data reported by the Trustees by electronically screening all records, eliminating ineligible students and duplicate registrations. After review by the respective Trustee, the final number of eligible students is determined.

The appropriation from Congress is divided by the total number of eligible students, thus determining the per capita Federal Quota allocation