

(III) HAS A MEDICALLY DIAGNOSED LIMITATION IN VISUAL FUNCTIONING THAT RESTRICTS THE STUDENT'S ABILITY TO READ AND WRITE STANDARD PRINT AT LEVELS EXPECTED OF OTHER STUDENTS OF COMPARABLE ABILITY AND GRADE LEVEL.

(3) "BRAILLE" MEANS THE SYSTEM OF READING AND WRITING THROUGH TOUCH COMMONLY KNOWN AS STANDARD ENGLISH GRADE 2 BRAILLE.

(4) "INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM" MEANS A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS OF THE STUDENT AND THE SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO MEET THOSE NEEDS WITH GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, AND MATERIALS ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS, INTERESTS, AND ABILITIES OF THE STUDENT.

(B) (1) IN DEVELOPING THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR EACH BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENT, IT SHALL BE PRESUMED THAT PROFICIENCY IN BRAILLE READING AND WRITING IS ESSENTIAL TO ENABLE THE STUDENT TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

(2) A STUDENT MAY NOT BE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INSTRUCTION IN BRAILLE READING AND WRITING SOLELY BECAUSE THE STUDENT HAS SOME REMAINING VISION.

(3) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF BRAILLE IF OTHER READING AND WRITING MEDIA ARE APPROPRIATE TO THE STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL NEEDS. THE USE OF OTHER READING AND WRITING MEDIA DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE USE OF BRAILLE OR THE INSTRUCTION OF BRAILLE.

(4) BRAILLE INSTRUCTION AND USE ARE NOT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION IF, IN DEVELOPING THE STUDENT'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM, ALL MEMBERS OF THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM CONCUR THAT THE STUDENT'S VISUAL IMPAIRMENT DOES NOT AFFECT THE STUDENT'S READING AND WRITING PERFORMANCE COMMENSURATE WITH THE STUDENT'S ABILITY AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE STUDENT'S FUTURE LITERACY NEEDS. WHEN A CONSENSUS CANNOT BE REACHED, A BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENT SHALL RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN ALTERNATIVE MEDIA TO BE AGREED UPON BY THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM AND TO BE PROVIDED AS AN INTERIM MEASURE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF EITHER PARTY.

(C) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD SHALL ADOPT CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS.