

Federal Quota Program, Parental Consent Process

FAQs

1. Is collecting Parental Consent for all students who are blind and low vision?

The collection of parental consent for the Federal Quota Annual Census is for students who meet or function at the definition of blindness, students who meet the definition of blindness per IDEA, and whose names will be sent to the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) for the purpose of generating federal quota funding through the "[Act to Promote the Education of the Blind](#)."

2. What are the criteria for eligibility for the Federal Quota Program?

Beginning in 2024, APH instituted a modified definition of blindness for the purpose of carrying out the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind. As of the 2024 Census for students to be eligible for registration in the Federal Quota Program, they MUST meet the following criteria:

- A. Meet the definition of blindness (MDB)—a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less (using a Snellen chart or an acuity determined in Snellen equivalents) in the better eye with the best correction or a peripheral field of vision no greater than 20 degrees,

OR
- B. Function at the definition of blindness (FDB)—when visual function meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye care specialist (ophthalmologist or optometrist) or a medical doctor such as a neurologist. Students in this category manifest unique visual characteristics often found in conditions referred to as neurological, cortical, or cerebral visual impairment (e.g., brain injury or dysfunction).
- C. IF NEITHER are met, students may also be eligible because they:
Qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) definition of blindness: an impairment in vision, that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance (34 CFR §300.8(c)(13)). The definition of blindness, as documented in [Article 7](#), aligns with the IDEA definition, and will determine eligibility of services per IDEA, for Indiana.
- D. Be enrolled in a formally organized public or private, nonprofit educational program of less than college level (educational programs include public, private, and parochial schools as well as vocational and rehabilitation programs for adults) and have a written education plan. School-aged students (including infants, toddlers, preschool, homebound, home-schooled students) must be enrolled with the registering school or agency on the first Monday in January. Adult students must be registered for at least 120 hours of educational instruction during the preceding calendar year.

3. Do schools need to acquire parental consent/permission each year?

No. Parental consent is collected once and does not need to be collected each year. The parental consent must be on file at the district level. Parental consent forms can be uploaded in the IIEP to the student document folder. If the eligible student moves to a new district, it is recommended that the new district acquire parental consent again prior to the IERC submitting their personally identifiable information (PII) to the American Printing House for the Blind for the Federal Quota program.

4. Do we send the Parent Consent form to the IERC?

No. The Parent Consent will be kept on file at the local level. The IERC does not collect these forms. The district will verify that the consent is on file as part of the online Annual Census process.

5. Do we collect Parent Consent for our students attending the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI)?

No. Any legally blind student who is attending ISBVI as of the first Monday in January is reported by ISBVI to APH via a separate federal account. Therefore, they are required to gather the consent forms for those students per the FERPA guidelines.

6. When does the Annual Census begin?

The Annual Census, Federal Quota process begins the first Monday in January, per the federal "Act to Promote the Education of the Blind." The Annual Census portal will open on the ICAM first Monday in January and close mid-February.