ESSENTIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED PUZZLE

FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATIONS

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ESSENTIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Current Eye Report
(within 1 year, preferably on state eye report form)

- Initial Eligibility (60 days)
- Low Vision Evaluation (LVE)
- Reevaluation/Redetermination (Every 3 Years)

- FVE can replace LVE for students under age 8 or who have severe disabilities for initial eligibility

- If age is the reason FVE was completed in lieu of LVE, LVE must be completed by age 10.

- Functional Vision Evaluation (FVE)
- Expanded Core Curriculum Assessment (ECC)
- Learning Media Assessment (LMA) including reading inventory

Federal Quota Registration with APH (Current eye report within 3 years)

Data-Driven Decision Making for Specialized Instruction and Eligibility/Redeterminations/Reevaluations for Students with Visual Impairments

Saves time by Kathy Sagar, 2010 GDOE

Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
“Making Education Work for All Georgians”
www.gadoe.org
CURRENT EYE REPORT

Putting the VI Assessment Puzzle Together

- Federal Quota Registration (APH)
- Eligibility (SPED & APH)
- Low Vision Evaluation (LVE)
- Functional Vision Evaluation (FVE)
- Learning Media Assessment (LMA)
- Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) Assessment
- Team Driven Assessment
- Data-Driven Decision Making for Students With VI
What do you need to get Started?

What do I need to Get Started?

What do I need to get Started?

PUZZLE PIECE #5-FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATION (FVE)
Who can assess students with visual impairments using the essential assessments?

- As per the state special education rule for visual impairments, only a certified teacher of the visually impaired can conduct a Functional Vision Evaluation (FVE), Learning Media Assessment (LMA), OR Expanded core Curriculum (ECC) Assessment on a student with a visual impairment.
PUZZLE PIECE #5-FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATION (FVE)

What is a Functional Vision Evaluation (FVE)?

- Provides educational information on how a child is using their residual vision in their customary environment.
- Compliments the reports of medical eye doctors.
- Is an educational, not a clinical evaluation.
- ** Shall only be conducted by a certified teacher of the visually impaired.**
- Gives the educator valuable information about how the child sees and uses their vision in educational settings, which in turn helps determine appropriate placement, services, accommodations, and modifications.
- Should be updated every three years (School Aged).
PUZZLE PIECE #5-FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATION (FVE)

Who is involved in the FVE?

- **Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired- Team Leader and Evaluator.** TVI should gather information from the child’s eye report and from the following persons:
  - Parents
  - Educators who teach the child or other caregivers.
  - PT, OT, or SLP who works with the child.
  - BCW Service Coordinators or Special Instructors /Georgia PINES Parent Advisors (If transitioning from Part C.)
What Information should Be Included on a Functional Vision Evaluation Report?

• Often two children with the same eye condition and the same visual acuities, use their vision in very different ways to access the educational environment.

• The FVE should give you information about how the child assessed is uniquely using their vision in the educational environment. The following components should be included on each report:
COMPONENTS OF THE FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATION

Appearance of the eyes and presence of corrective lenses.

Visual reflexes - Pupillary response, defensive blink, Doll’s eye response.

Visual responsiveness and perception - Light perception and light projection, shadow and form perception, and detection of motion.
PUZZLE PIECE #5-FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATION (FVE)

COMPONENTS OF THE FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATION

• Muscle balance
• Eye preference
• Oculomotor behaviors: Fixation, Convergence and divergence, tracing and tracking, shift of gaze, and scanning.
• Field of Vision
• Color Vision
• Depth perception
• Figure-ground perception
• Light sensitivity and light-dark adaptation
• Contrast sensitivity
PUZZLE PIECE #5 FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATION (FVE)

COMPONENTS OF THE FUNCTIONAL VISION EVALUATION

• Visual acuity - Preferred viewing distance, near and far acuities.
• Current print functioning
• Visual Motor Coordination - fine and gross
• Visual Cognitive Skills - Visual imitation of movement, identification, matching, sorting, and classification of objects and pictures, and visual sequencing
• Visual perception skills
Considerations

- FVE should be updated every three years or sooner if the child’s vision has obviously changed (School Aged).
- It is not necessary to assess each component each time an update is done. For example, if color vision has not been determined to be an issue in the past, you could skip it on the updates unless you had reason to believe that it had become an issue.
- Information should be gathered through observations both indoors and outdoors and in a variety of settings, from interviews, from medical records, and through formal assessments.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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