

Your District Public Schools

Your District, Oregon

Certification Guidelines

Assistive Technology and Accessible Instructional Materials for Students With Reading Disabilities

Students in the _____ School District who have significant reading disabilities now can benefit from textbooks and literature that is provided to them in alternative formats, either for listening (books-on-CD format) or using software programs that “read” to the student while highlighting the word being read. There are several organizations, such as Bookshare.org, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFBD), and Talking Book and Braille Services (TBABS) which can provide copyrighted textbooks and reading literature (books, magazines, newspapers).

To qualify for these services:

- **The reading disability must be of sufficient severity to prevent reading regular or standard printed material in a normal manner,**
- **The cause of the disability must be physically based, that is, it must be an *organic dysfunction*, and,**
- **The person certifying the application must be medically able to judge whether the disability has a physical or organic basis.**

With persons classified as reading disabled, usually only the effect is readily apparent. The cause, when physical, lies within the central nervous system, and, under the existing regulation, this cause can be determined only by competent medical authority.

The signature of a doctor of medicine is required by federal regulation on the application to certify not only that a reading disability exists and is serious enough to prevent reading regular printed material in a normal manner, but also that the identified condition has a physical basis. Non-organic factors--such as emotional or environmental causes, intellectual or educational deficiencies, or other possible non-organic or nonphysical causes--must be ruled out and cannot be taken into consideration. When certifying applications for service for persons with reading disabilities, certifying medical authorities are encouraged to consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

A case manager from the _____ School District Special Education Department has sent you this information sheet along with the Verification of Eligibility form, because the student, _____ has been identified as a possible candidate for alternative format material. Your signature is required on the attached form.

Case Manager

Phone

Date