

THE FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AND CONTINUED ENROLLMENT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) has been designated by the State of Florida as a program that serves children whose primary disability is either a hearing impairment or a visual impairment. Program design and selection of staff is based on that premise.

The FSDB-Board of Trustees enrollment criteria is reflective of this State designation. Should a family consider relocating to Florida or the St. Johns County area for the purpose of enrolling their child in FSDB, it is suggested that parents contact the FSDB Parent Information Office prior to relocating. Not all children presented for enrollment are accepted at FSDB.

General Admission Requirements based on Rule 6D-3.002, FAC. ALL students must meet these requirements:

A child may be eligible for free enrollment at FSDB if there is evidence he:

1. Lives in the state of Florida. A limited number of children who live in other states may be eligible for enrollment, but are charged an out-of-state tuition.
2. Is between 5 and 21 years of age, (3 and 4 year olds may be served as day students.)
3. Can finger feed, chew and swallow most foods, indicates awareness of being soiled or wet, assists in dressing self, and cooperates in bathing.

A child is NOT eligible if there is evidence that he is:

1. Determined to be a danger to self or others, disruptive to other students or the educational process,
2. Severely Emotionally Disturbed,
3. Autistic,
4. Homebound/Hospitalized,
5. Determined to have medically related health and/or safety issues which are beyond the scope of the Health Care Center, the educational and/or the residential programs and their resources to appropriately manage,
6. Trainable Mentally Handicapped (TMH) (unless the student is Dual Sensory Impaired),
7. Profoundly Mentally Handicapped (PMH), or,
8. If the parent or adult student refuses to give consent for emergency medical treatment or for the Health Care Plan for students with involved medical problems.

A determination that a child is eligible or not eligible for enrollment or continued enrollment is based on the recommendation of a Staffing Committee following review of all student related data, and/or an intake evaluation.

ADMISSION TO THE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING PROGRAM: The child must meet the criteria for general admission and all of the following:

1. Medical Condition

A hearing impairment of thirty (30) decibels or greater within the range for hearing normal speech (pure tone average of 500, 1000, 2000, Hz, ANSI). This measurement will be taken in the better ear without benefit of a hearing aid.

2. Educational Concern

A hearing impairment which has the potential to adversely affect the child's academic performance, social development, language development, communication skills or intellectual functioning

ADMISSION TO THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED PROGRAM: The child must meet the criteria for general admission and all of the following:

1. Medical Condition

A visual impairment that is one of those listed below:

- an acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye with best possible correction
- a constricted peripheral field which affects the child's ability to function in the academic setting
- a progressive loss of vision which may affect the child's ability to function in school in the future

2. Educational Concern

A documented functional vision loss which:

- inhibits the child's ability to process information through the visual channel; and,
- requires the use of specialized techniques, textbooks, materials, or equipment

ADMISSION TO THE DUAL SENSORY IMPAIRED (DEAF-BLIND) PROGRAM: The child must meet the criteria for general admission and all of the following:

1. Meets the definition of blind or partially sighted as determined by an ophthalmologist or optometrist
2. Meets the definition of deaf or hard of hearing as determined by an audiologist
3. Evidence that the hearing impairment has the potential to adversely affect the applicant's academic performance, social development, language development, communication skills, or intellectual functioning
4. Functional vision loss which inhibits optimal processing of information through the visual channel and requires the use of specialized techniques, textbooks, materials or equipment
5. Evidence that the applicant does not meet criteria for eligibility for Profoundly Mentally Handicapped (PMH)
6. Evidence that the deaf-blind applicant cannot be properly accommodated exclusively in programs for the hearing impaired or visually impaired.