

IDEA guidelines as an eligible student. This supplemental registration is also done through the student's home school district.

#### **Conclusion:**

For more than a century, the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind has been affecting change in the lives of Americans who are visually impaired. Through materials that range from accessible books to fine motor development materials, from braille writing equipment to talking computer products, and an outstanding network of IRC staff and school districts, APH and the Act address the specific learning needs that a vision loss creates. It is the purpose of the Act and its Federal Quota Program to place the most appropriate educational aids, tools, and supplies in the hands and lives of each person who is visually impaired. The NMSBVI IRC staff is dedicated to providing those materials to students throughout New Mexico to allow them every opportunity to be successful in their educational setting. If you have any questions regarding the APH Quota Funds or the products and services provided by the NMSBVI IRC, please feel free to contact us.

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**DO YOU HAVE  
A CHILD WITH  
A VISUAL  
IMPAIRMENT?**  
*We can help!*



**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE  
BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

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NMSBVI's  
Instructional Resource Center  
provides  
**EDUCATIONAL  
AND SUPPORT  
MATERIALS**

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

### The NMSBVI Mission:

As a leader and unifying entity in the field of educating students birth-high school who are blind or visually impaired, NMSBVI is a statewide network of services that ensures all students who are blind or visually impaired will become independent productive members of their communities by identifying and providing quality education and collaborating with students, families and partners to provide outstanding training, resources and support services.

### What is the IRC?

The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI) Instructional Resource Center (IRC) serves as a statewide lending resource for APH Quota Fund Braille and large print textbooks, as well as other specialized equipment used by students with visual impairments. With its large, on-site inventory, the IRC makes available for loan a multitude of textbooks in Braille and large print for use by students being served in their community school settings across New Mexico. In addition, Braille writers, supplies, and a multitude of other specialized equipment needed by students can be borrowed by school districts. APH materials are requested by the school districts/teachers of students with visual impairments through the IRC. Ordering APH Quota Fund materials through the IRC is at no charge to the school district or the student. At the current time, over 1,000 students are served in various educational settings all over New Mexico. They include students deemed legally blind

by federal guidelines, as well as those with visual impairments that impact their day-to-day educational needs.

### Have you heard of American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Quota Funds?

APH Quota Funds are based on a federal law called the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind, passed by Congress in 1879, which recognizes that students who are blind or visually impaired require special materials to access the school curriculum. Congress sets aside funds every year so that schools can order APH materials for students who are blind or visually impaired. These APH materials range from Braille writers and Braille textbooks to items that facilitate self-help or sensory development. The materials may support the core curriculum or the expanded core curriculum essential for students with a visual impairment.

NMSBVI has been designated as the agency responsible for overseeing the APH Quota account funding for the state of New Mexico. Funds are allocated each year by Congress based on a national census of students who meet the *federal definition of blindness, have an educational program that meets the guidelines, and have a written educational plan (IFSP or IEP)*. The law is very inclusive in regards to eligibility; there is NO chronological age requirement. It includes all public-school students in a school district who are blind/visually impaired, as well as infants and toddlers in early intervention programs, students in parochial and private schools, and students who are homeschooled. Eligible infants and preschool children can be registered if they are enrolled in a formally

organized, regularly scheduled educational or training program and have a written education plan. Each school district is responsible for reporting the number of students who are blind/visually impaired that are in attendance on the first Monday of each January. This census is very important, because the number of students reported determines how much money Congress puts into the account for each state. ***If a student is not registered during the census, they are not eligible to receive materials through the quota fund.*** Each state's share of these funds is held in escrow at the American Printing House for the Blind and, as orders for materials are processed, their cost is drawn against that account. You can contact your local school district or the NMSBVI IRC to determine if your child qualifies for APH Quota Funds and is counted on the annual census.

### What happens to the materials once a student is finished with them?

Materials that are used are returned to the IRC and placed on inventory. Those materials can then be redistributed to other students in other school districts. If a student with a visual impairment is not registered with APH but needs supplies or materials to access the curriculum, school districts can order the gently used materials for those students through the IRC. Students who are blind and visually impaired are eligible for services through the IRC ***if they have a current supplemental registration on file with the NMSBVI IRC***, regardless of whether the student is eligible for APH Quota Funds or qualifies under

