

Visually Impaired

The Program for the Visually Impaired, operated by Azusa Unified School District, provides services for all school districts in the East San Gabriel Valley SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area). The program is designed to meet the needs of three types of students: totally blind, legally blind and partially sighted. As a low-incidence program, services are provided from infancy through age 22 (or until a high school diploma is earned).

▶ The program maintains mild-to-moderate classrooms at the preschool, elementary, middle and high school levels for students who require intensive specialized instruction due to their visual impairment. For students who are more appropriately served at their home school, an itinerant teacher (TVI) is assigned to provide materials and instruction. The itinerant teachers assist not only the student, but also teachers, nurses and administrators at the home school.

▶ Orientation and Mobility services are provided for students requiring instruction in becoming safe and efficient travelers in their environment. The mobility instructor (OMI) also provides training for use of the cane, human guides and other adaptive devices. This training is necessary to prepare students for transition from school to career and may involve experiences in the community.

▶ Adapted Physical Education (APE) is provided for students who have gross motor deficits. The A.P.E. teacher provides direct instruction, as well as consultation with general physical education teachers. Skills addressed include locomotion, object control and body awareness. Itinerant students receive A.P.E. services from their home district.

▶ Transition services are offered to students ages 15 and older. Career assessment, training, job experience and post-secondary resources are provided to students to ensure that they are prepared for life after high school. Daily living skills are critical for transition and are addressed beginning with the preschool curriculum.

▶ For visually impaired children who are birth to age 3 and are not being served by the Regional Center, services are provided through home visits, parent training, direct instruction and the provision of specialized materials and support. Ongoing assessments in various skill areas are given frequently due to the changing developmental levels of infants.