Guidelines: For the Specialized Assessment of Students with Visual Impairments

July 2012

Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments (ECC) (see Appendix C)

The National Agenda for the Education of Children and Youths with Visual Impairments, Including Those with Multiple Disabilities states that there are two essential “parts” to a curriculum designed to meet the needs of students with visual impairments. The first part is the general education curriculum to which all students, with or without disabilities, must have access.

The second part of the curriculum includes skills directly related to the nature and extent of the student’s visual impairment. The American Foundation for the Blind has worked with stakeholders to develop this curriculum, which is called the Expanded Core Curriculum.
The ECC is the body of knowledge and skills that are needed by students with visual impairments due to their unique disability-specific needs. These include:

- compensatory skill, such as communication modes;
- orientation and mobility;
- social interaction skills;
- independent living skills;
- recreation and leisure skills;
- career education;
- use of assistive technology;
- visual efficiency skill;
- self-determination.

The ECC should be used as a framework for assessing students, planning individual goals and providing instruction.