

THE REVISED SCHOOL CODE (EXCERPT)
Act 451 of 1976

380.1704 Short title of section; standards for teachers of blind and visually impaired pupils; providing information advocating braille instruction; electronic file format versions of textbooks or braille versions; pupil with some remaining vision; instruction consistent with other pupils; definitions.

Sec. 1704.

(1) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "blind pupil's Braille literacy law".

(2) The department shall adopt Braille reading and writing standards for teachers of blind and visually impaired pupils and shall disseminate these standards to all school districts, intermediate school districts, and teacher preparation programs. These standards shall be included in the rules governing special education programs and services. In establishing these standards, the department shall consider the standards adopted by the national library service for the blind and physically handicapped of the United States library of congress.

(3) When a local or intermediate school district receives information from the department, or information that is approved by the department from a consumer organization that advocates for the blind, describing the benefits of instruction in Braille reading and writing, the local or intermediate school district shall provide this information to each person on the blind pupil's individualized educational planning committee.

(4) The department shall accept and respond to requests from local and intermediate school districts and shall work with textbook publishers to obtain electronic file format versions of textbooks or Braille versions of textbooks, or both. The department may also, on behalf of local and intermediate school districts, request and arrange for converting an electronic file format version of a textbook to a Braille version. The department shall process and make these requests in a timely manner.

(5) Upon request, a publisher of a textbook that is adopted for instructional use by a school district shall furnish the department with an electronic version of the textbook if the textbook is for a literary subject or, for a textbook for a nonliterary subject, if the technology is available to convert the textbook directly to a format compatible with Braille translation software. A publisher shall not charge a price for this electronic version that exceeds the price it charges for the print or electronic media version of the textbook.

(6) A local or intermediate school district or an individualized educational planning committee shall not deny a pupil the opportunity for instruction in Braille reading and writing solely because the pupil has some remaining vision.

(7) Instruction for blind pupils shall be consistent with the goals and standards established by this state for all pupils.

(8) As used in this section:

(a) "Blind pupil" means a pupil who is determined to manifest 1 or more of the following:

(i) A visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye after routine refractive correction.

(ii) A field of vision that is limited so that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle not greater than 20 degrees.

(iii) A medically indicated expectation of visual deterioration that is expected to result in 1 or both of the conditions described in subparagraphs (i) and (ii).

(b) "Individualized education program" means that term as defined in section 614 of part B of title VI of the individuals with disabilities education act, Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. 1414, or in R 340.1701A of the Michigan administrative code.

(c) "Individualized educational planning committee" means that term as defined in R 340.1701A of the Michigan administrative code or an individualized education program team as defined in section 614 of part B of title VI of the individuals with disabilities education act, Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. 1414.

(d) "Textbook" includes a text published in electronic media that is used for instructional purposes.

History: Add. 2000, Act 129, Imd. Eff. May 30, 2000

Popular Name: Act 451