

505-3-.60 SPECIAL EDUCATION VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS PROGRAM

(1) **Purpose.** This rule states field-specific content standards for approving programs that prepare teachers to teach students with visual impairments in grades P-12. This rule supplements requirements in GaPSC Rule 505-3-.01, REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

(2) **Requirements.**

(a) To receive approval, a GaPSC-approved educator preparation provider shall offer a preparation program described in program planning forms, catalogs, and syllabi addressing the following standards:

1. The program shall conform to the following standards for the preparation of all beginning special education teachers who teach students with visual impairments in grade P-12 published by the Council for Exceptional Children 2012 as follows:

(i) Learner and Learning: Learner Development and Individual Learning Differences
Beginning special education professionals understand how exceptionalities may interact with development and learning and use this knowledge to provide meaningful and challenging learning experiences for individuals with exceptionalities. They understand how language, culture, and family background influence the learning of individuals with exceptionalities and use understanding of development and individual differences to respond to the needs of individuals with exceptionalities. The standard and elements will be indicated by the following:

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand typical and atypical human growth and development;

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who understand similarities and differences among individuals with exceptionalities;

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand educational implications of characteristics of various exceptionalities;

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand family systems and the role of families in supporting development;

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with cultural perspectives influencing the relationships among families, schools, and communities as related to instruction;

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand variations in beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures and their effects on relationships among individuals with exceptionalities, family, and schooling;

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand characteristics and effects of the cultural and environmental milieu of the individual with exceptionalities and the family;

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand similarities and differences of individuals with and without exceptionalities;

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who understand effects of various medications on individuals with exceptionalities;

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects an exceptional condition(s) can have on an individual's life;

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the impact of individuals with exceptionalities' academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values on instruction and career development;

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who can demonstrate differing ways of learning of individuals with exceptionalities, including those from culturally diverse backgrounds, and strategies for addressing these differences;

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who can demonstrate the effects of cultural and linguistic differences on growth and development;

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the characteristics of one's own culture and use of language and the ways in which these can differ from other cultures and uses of languages;

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand ways of behaving and communicating among cultures that can lead to misinterpretation and misunderstanding;

(XVI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the development of the human visual system;

(XVII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the development of secondary senses when vision is impaired;

(XVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects of visual impairment on development;

(XIX) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the impact of visual impairment on learning and experience;

(XX) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the psychosocial aspects of visual impairment and cultural identity;

(XXI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects of visual impairment on receptive and expressive literacy and communication;

(XXII) The program shall prepare candidates who select and develop teaching strategies addressing age, visual impairment and visual prognosis;

(XXIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies to address the effects of visual impairment on the family and the reciprocal impact on the individual's self-esteem; and

(XXIV) The program shall prepare candidates who select, adapt and use instructional strategies to address the impact of additional exceptionalities.

(ii) Learning Environments

Beginning special education professionals create safe, inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments so that individuals with exceptionalities become active and effective learners and develop emotional well-being, positive social interactions, and self-determination. They collaborate with general educators and other colleagues to create safe, inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments to engage individuals with exceptionalities in meaningful learning activities and social interactions. Beginning special education professionals use motivational and instructional interventions to teach individuals with exceptionalities how to adapt to different environments. They know how to intervene safely and appropriately with individuals with exceptionalities in crisis. The standard and elements will be indicated by the following:

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the demands of learning environments;

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who understand basic classroom management theories and strategies for individuals with exceptionalities;

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand effective management of teaching and learning;

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand teacher attitudes and behaviors that influence behavior of individuals with exceptionalities;

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who understand social skills needed for educational and other environments;

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of strategies for crisis prevention and intervention;

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of strategies for preparing individuals to live harmoniously and productively in a culturally diverse world;

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand ways to create learning environments that allow individuals to retain and appreciate their own and each other's respective language and cultural heritage;

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who understand ways cultures are negatively stereotyped;

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the strategies used by diverse populations to cope with a legacy of former and continuing racism;

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand classroom organization to accommodate materials, equipment, and technology for vision loss and other disabilities;

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the importance of role models with visual impairments;

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who create a safe, equitable, positive, and supportive learning environment in which diversities are valued;

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who identify realistic expectations for personal and social behavior in various settings;

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who identify supports needed for integration into various program placements;

(XVI) The program shall prepare candidates who design learning environments that encourage active participation in individual and group activities;

(XVII) The program shall prepare candidates who modify the learning environment to manage behaviors;

(XVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use performance data and information from all stakeholders to make or suggest modifications in learning environments;

(XIX) The program shall prepare candidates who establish and maintain rapport with individuals with and without exceptionalities;

(XX) The program shall prepare candidates who teach self-advocacy;

(XXI) The program shall prepare candidates who create an environment that encourages self-advocacy and increased independence;

(XXII) The program shall prepare candidates who use effective and varied behavior management strategies;

(XXIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use the least intensive behavior management strategy consistent with the needs of the individual with exceptionalities;

(XXIV) The program shall prepare candidates who design and manage daily routines;

(XXV) The program shall prepare candidates who organize, develop, and sustain learning environments that support positive intra-cultural and intercultural experiences;

(XXVI) The program shall prepare candidates who mediate controversial intercultural issues among individuals with exceptionalities within the learning environment in ways that enhance any culture, group, or person;

(XXVII) The program shall prepare candidates who structure, direct, and support the activities of Para-educators, volunteers, and tutors;

(XXVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use universal precautions;

(XXIX) The program shall prepare candidates who design multi-sensory learning environments that encourage active participation in group and individual activities; and

(XXX) The program shall prepare candidates who provide access to incidental learning experience.

(iii) Curricular Content Knowledge

Beginning special education professionals use knowledge of general and specialized curricula to individualize learning for individuals with exceptionalities. They understand the central concepts, structures of the discipline and tools of inquiry of the content areas they teach and can organize this knowledge, integrate cross-disciplinary skills and develop meaningful learning progressions for individuals with exceptionalities. Beginning special education professionals understand and use general and specialized content knowledge for teaching across curricular content areas to individualize learning for individuals with exceptionalities and can modify general and specialized curricula to make them accessible to individuals with exceptionalities. The standard and elements will be indicated by the following:

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand theories and research that form the basis of curriculum development and instructional practices;

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who understand scope and sequences of general and special curricula;

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand national, state or provincial, and local curricula standards;

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand technology for planning and managing the teaching and learning environment;

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the relationship among assessment, development of individualized education program and placement as they affect vision-related services;

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who identify and prioritize areas of the general curriculum and accommodations for individuals with exceptionalities;

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who integrate affective, social, and life skills with academic curricula;

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who sequence, implement, and evaluate learning objectives based on the expanded core curriculum for individuals with visual impairments; and

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who obtain and organize specialized materials to implement instructional goals.

(iv) Assessment

Beginning special education professionals use multiple methods of assessment and data-sources in making educational decisions. They select and use technically sound formal and informal assessments that minimize bias and use knowledge of measurement principles and practices to interpret assessment results and guide educational decisions for individuals with exceptionalities. Beginning special education professionals in collaboration with colleagues and families use multiple types of assessment information in making decisions about individuals with exceptionalities. They engage individuals with exceptionalities to work toward quality learning and performance and provide feedback to guide them. The standard and elements will be indicated by the following:

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand basic terminology used in assessment;

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who understand legal provisions and ethical principles regarding assessment of individuals;

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand screening, pre-referral, referral, and classification procedures;

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the use and limitations of assessment instruments;

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who understand national, state or provincial, and local accommodations and modifications;

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand specialized terminology used in the assessment of individuals with visual impairments;

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand alternative assessment techniques for individuals with visual impairments;

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand basic terminology related to the function of the human visual system;

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who gather relevant background information;

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who administer nonbiased formal and informal assessments;

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who use technology to conduct assessments;

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who develop or modify individualized assessment strategies;

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who interpret information from formal and informal assessments;

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who use assessment information in making eligibility, program and placement decisions for individuals with exceptionalities, including those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds;

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who report assessment results to all stakeholders using effective communication skills;

(XVI) The program shall prepare candidates who evaluate instruction and monitor progress of individuals with exceptionalities;

(XVII) The program shall prepare candidates who create and maintain records;

(XVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who administer and interpret vision-related assessments;

(XIX) The program shall prepare candidates who use functional evaluations related to the expanded core curriculum;

(XX) The program shall prepare candidates who select, adapt and use assessment information when tests are not validated on individuals with visual impairments;

(XXI) The program shall prepare candidates who participate in the standardization process for local and state assessments; and

(XXII) The program shall prepare candidates who interpret and apply background information and family history related to the individual's visual status.

(v) Instructional Planning and Strategies

Beginning special education professionals select, adapt, and use a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to advance learning of individuals with exceptionalities. They consider an individual's abilities, interests, learning environments, and cultural and linguistic factors in the selection, development, and adaptation of learning experiences for individuals with exceptionalities. Beginning special education professionals use technologies to support instructional assessment, planning, and delivery for individuals with exceptionalities. They are familiar with augmentative and alternative communication systems and a variety of assistive technologies to support the communication and learning of individuals with exceptionalities. They use strategies to enhance language development and communication skills of individuals with exceptionalities, develop and implement a variety of education and transition plans for individuals with exceptionalities across a wide range of settings and different learning experiences in collaboration with individuals, families and teams, and teach to mastery and promote generalization of learning. They teach cross-disciplinary knowledge and skills such as critical thinking and problem solving to individuals with exceptionalities. The standard and elements will be indicated by the following:

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of the roles and responsibilities of the Para-educator related to instruction, intervention, and direct service;

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who know and apply evidence-based practices validated for specific characteristics of learners and settings;

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who know augmentative and assistive communication strategies;

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand strategies for teaching new concepts;

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for teaching visual efficiency skills and use of print adaptations, optical devices, and non-optical devices;

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of strategies for teaching organization and study skills;

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate strategies for teaching tactual perceptual skills;

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate strategies for teaching adapted physical and recreational skills;

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of strategies for teaching social, daily living, and functional life skills;

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of strategies for teaching career-vocational skills and providing vocational counseling;

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand strategies to prepare individuals with progressive eye conditions to achieve a positive transition to alternative skills;

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate techniques for teaching human sexuality;

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of strategies for responding and understanding the implications of non-verbal communication as a substructure of language;

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate strategies for teaching listening and compensatory auditory skills;

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who develop and implement comprehensive, longitudinal individualized programs in collaboration with team members;

(XVI) The program shall prepare candidates who involve the individual and family in setting instructional goals and monitoring progress;

(XVII) The program shall prepare candidates who use functional assessments to develop intervention plans;

(XVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use task analysis;

(XIX) The program shall prepare candidates who sequence, implement, and evaluate individualized learning objectives;

(XX) The program shall prepare candidates who develop and select instructional content, resources, and strategies that respond to cultural, linguistic, and gender differences;

(XXI) The program shall prepare candidates who incorporate and implement instructional and assistive technology into the educational program;

(XXII) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare lesson plans;

(XXIII) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare and organize materials to implement daily lesson plans;

(XXIV) The program shall prepare candidates who use instructional time effectively;

(XXV) The program shall prepare candidates who make adjustments to instruction based on continual observations;

(XXVI) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare individuals to exhibit self-enhancing behavior in response to societal attitudes and actions;

(XXVII) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies to facilitate integration into various settings;

(XXVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who teach individuals to use self-assessment, problem-solving, and other cognitive strategies to meet their needs;

(XXIX) The program shall prepare candidates who select, adapt, and use instructional strategies and materials according to characteristics of the individual with exceptionalities;

(XXX) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies to facilitate maintenance and generalization of skills across learning environments;

(XXXI) The program shall prepare candidates who use procedures to increase the individual's self-awareness, self-management, self-control, self-reliance, and self-esteem;

(XXXII) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies that promote successful transitions for individuals with exceptionalities;

(XXXIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies to support and enhance communication skills of individuals with exceptionalities;

(XXXIV) The program shall prepare candidates who use communication strategies and resources to facilitate understanding of subject matter for individuals with exceptionalities whose primary language is not the dominant language;

(XXXV) The program shall prepare candidates who modify instructional practices in response to ongoing assessment data;

(XXXVI) The program shall prepare candidates who select and use technologies to accomplish instructional objectives;

(XXXVII) The program shall prepare candidates who integrate the individualized health care plan into daily programming;

(XXXVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who teach communication through technology and adaptations specific to visual impairments;

(XXXIX) The program shall prepare candidates who select and adapt materials in Braille, accessible print, and other formats;

(XL) The program shall prepare candidates who teach the use of braillewriter, slate and stylus, and computer technology to produce Braille materials;

(XLI) The program shall prepare candidates who teach the use of the abacus, talking calculator, tactile graphics, and adapted science equipment;

(XLII) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare individuals for sighted guide and pre-cane orientation and mobility instruction; and

(XLIII) The program shall prepare candidates who teach literacy skills to individuals who have vision loss as well as other disabilities.

(vi) Professional Learning and Ethical Practice

Beginning special education professionals use foundational knowledge of the field and their professional Ethical Principles and Practice Standards to inform special education practice, to engage in lifelong learning and to advance the profession. They use Ethical Principles and Professional Practice Standards to guide their practice and understand how foundational knowledge and current issues influence professional practice. They understand that diversity is a part of families, cultures, and schools, and that complex human issues can interact with the delivery of special education services. Beginning special education professionals understand the significance of lifelong learning and participate in professional activities and learning communities. They advance the profession by engaging in activities such as advocacy and mentoring and provide guidance and direction to Para-educators, tutors, and volunteers. The standard and elements will be indicated by the following:

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand models, theories, philosophies, and research methods that form the basis for special education practice;

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who understand laws, policies and ethical principles regarding behavior management, planning and implementation;

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the relationship of special education to the organization and function of educational agencies;

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the rights and responsibilities of individuals with exceptionalities, parents, teachers, and other professionals, and schools related to exceptionalities;

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who understand issues in definition and identification of individuals with exceptionalities, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand issues, assurances and due process rights related to assessment, eligibility, and placement within a continuum of services;

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand family systems and the role of families in the educational process;

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand historical points of view and contributions of culturally diverse groups;

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the impact of the dominant culture on shaping schools and the individuals who study and work in them;

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the potential impact of differences in values, languages, and customs that can exist between the home and school;

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand personal cultural biases and differences that affect one's teaching;

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the importance of the teacher serving as a model for individuals with exceptionalities;

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the continuum of lifelong professional development;

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand methods to remain current regarding research-validated practice;

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who access rights to specialized equipment and materials for individuals with visual impairments;

(XVI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the historical foundations of education of individuals with visual impairments as related to traditional roles of specialized and public schools around the world;

(XVII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the incidence and prevalence for individuals with visual impairments;

(XVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who know the basic terminology related to the function of the human visual system;

(XIX) The program shall prepare candidates who practice within the CEC Code of Ethics and other standards of the profession;

(XX) The program shall prepare candidates who uphold high standards of competence and integrity and exercise sound judgment in the practice of the profession;

(XXI) The program shall prepare candidates who act ethically in advocating for appropriate services;

(XXII) The program shall conduct professional activities in compliance with applicable laws and policies;

(XXIII) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate commitment to developing the highest education and quality-of-life potential of individuals with exceptional learning needs;

(XXIII) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate sensitivity for the culture, language, religion, gender, disability, socio-economic status, and sexual orientation of individuals;

(XXIV) The program shall prepare candidates who practice within their skill limit and obtain assistance as needed;

(XXVI) The program shall prepare candidates who use verbal, nonverbal, and written language effectively;

(XXVII) The program shall prepare candidates who conduct self-evaluation of instruction;

(XXVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who access information on exceptionalities;

(XXIX) The program shall prepare candidates who reflect on one's practice to improve instruction and guide professional growth;

(XXX) The program shall prepare candidates who engage in professional activities that benefit individuals with exceptionalities, their families, and one's colleagues;

(XXXI) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate commitment to engage in evidence-based practices;

(XXXII) The program shall prepare candidates who articulate personal philosophies of special education;

(XXXIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies to address the effects of visual impairment on the family and the reciprocal impact on the individuals' self-esteem;

(XXXIV) The program shall prepare candidates who select, adapt and use instructional strategies to address the impact of additional exceptionalities;

(XXXV) The program shall prepare candidates who articulate an instructional philosophy that responds to the specific implications of visual impairment within the general curriculum;

(XXXVI) The program shall prepare candidates who articulate a professional philosophy that draws on specialized knowledge of visual impairment within the continuum of instructional options;

(XXXVII) The program shall prepare candidates who participate in the activities of professional organizations in the field of visual impairment; and

(XXXVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who advocate for educational policy related to visual impairment.

(vii) Collaboration

Beginning special education professionals collaborate with families, other educators, related service providers, individuals with exceptionalities, and personnel from community agencies in culturally responsive ways to address the needs of individuals with exceptionalities across a range of learning experiences. They use the theory and elements of effective collaboration, serve as a collaborative resource to colleagues and use collaboration to promote the well-being of individuals with exceptionalities across a wide range of settings and collaborators. The standard and elements will be indicated by the following:

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who know models and strategies of consultation and collaboration;

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who know the roles of individuals with exceptional learning needs, families, and school and community personnel in the planning of an individualized program;

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the concerns of families of individuals with exceptional learning needs and strategies to help address these concerns;

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who know culturally responsive factors that promote effective communication and collaboration with individuals with exceptional learning needs, families, school personnel, and community members;

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate strategies for assisting families and other team members in transition planning;

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the services, networks, publications for and organizations of individuals with visual impairments;

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who maintain confidential communication about individuals with exceptional learning needs;

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who collaborate with families and others in the assessment of individuals with exceptional learning needs;

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who foster respectful and beneficial relationships between families and professionals;

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who assist individuals with exceptionalities and their families in becoming active participants in the educational team;

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who plan and conduct collaborative conferences with individuals with exceptionalities and their families;

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who collaborate with school personnel and community members in integrating individuals with exceptional learning needs into various settings;

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use group problem solving skills to develop, implement and evaluate collaborative activities;

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who model techniques and coach others in the use of instructional methods and accommodations;

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who communicate with school personnel about the characteristics and needs of individuals with exceptional learning needs;

(XVI) The program shall prepare candidates who communicate effectively with families of individuals with exceptional learning needs from diverse backgrounds.

(XVII) The program shall prepare candidates who observe, evaluate and provide feedback to Para-educators;

(XVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who structure and supervise the activities of Para-educators and others who work with individuals with visual impairments; and

(XIX) The program shall prepare candidates who plan and implement literacy and communication, and provide consultative support within the general curriculum and the expanded core curriculum.

(b) The program shall prepare professionals who understand and apply principles of teaching reading and writing and who meet the following identified standards specified by the International Reading Association Standards for Reading Professionals, Classroom Teacher Candidate, 2011. This requirement may be met in a separate three (3) semester-hour course, or content may be embedded in courses and experiences throughout the preparation program.

1. Candidates use instructional approaches, materials, and an integrated, comprehensive, balanced curriculum to support student learning in reading and writing.

2. Candidates use a variety of assessment tools and practices to plan and evaluate effective reading and writing instruction.

3. Candidates create a literate environment that fosters reading and writing by integrating foundational knowledge, instructional practices, approaches and methods, curriculum materials, and the appropriate use of assessments.

(c) The program shall require the completion of a content concentration in social science, science, math, language arts, or reading.

1. A content concentration shall consist of fifteen (15) semester hours of academic content that conforms with the requirements of the content concentrations for middle grades. (See GaPSC Rule 505-3-.19, MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION PROGRAM)

2. A course taken to meet the requirements of (b) (above) may be counted toward the fifteen semester hours required for the reading concentration.

3. A course taken to meet the requirements of (b) (above) may be counted toward the fifteen semester hours required for the language arts concentration.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200