



Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind

Do More. Be More. Achieve More.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION & CONTINUED ENROLLMENT

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) has been designated by the State of Florida as a program that serves children whose primary disability is either a hearing loss or a vision loss. Program design and selection of staff is based on that premise. The FSDB Board of Trustees enrollment criteria (Rule 6D-3.002, F.A.C) are reflective of this State designation. Should a family consider relocating to Florida or the St. Johns County area for the purpose of enrolling their child in FSDB, it is strongly recommended that parents contact the FSDB Parent Services Office prior to relocating. Not all children who apply are eligible to attend the FSDB. Below is a summary of FSDB's enrollment criteria. For the full language of the criteria, please see Rule 6D-3.002, F.A.C.

All students must meet these requirements:

1. Live in the state of Florida. (A limited number of students who live in other states may be eligible for enrollment, but are charged an out-of-state tuition.)
2. Be between 3 and 21 years of age.
3. Can finger feed self, can chew and swallow most food, indicates awareness of being soiled or wet, assists with dressing, and cooperate in bathing.
4. Is not determined to be a danger to self or others, or disruptive to the educational process.
5. Does not show an uneven developmental profile and pattern of social, communication, and restricted or repetitive behaviors or interests.
6. Does not have a medical or mental health condition that prohibits the student from attending school on a daily basis.
7. Does not have a standard score of three (3) standard deviations below the mean on standardized intellectual and adaptive behavior assessments.
8. Does not have medically related health or safety needs beyond the scope of the Health Care Center or the educational program.
9. Parent gives consent for emergency medical treatment or for a Health Care Plan, if needed.

Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing must also meet the following requirements:

1. Have a permanent or fluctuating hearing threshold level as evidenced by:
 - a. an unaided, pure tone average of 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz 25dB \pm 5dB or greater in the better ear, or
 - b. a high frequency hearing threshold level of 25dB \pm 5dB or greater based on pure tone average of 1000, 2000, and 3000 Hz, or
 - c. an unilateral hearing threshold level of 50 dB \pm 5dB or greater, based on pure tone average of 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz unaided, or

- d. an auditory evoked potential responses evidencing permanent hearing loss at multiple frequencies equivalent to or in excess of the decibel hearing loss threshold criteria for pure tone audiometric testing specified above.
2. Have a hearing threshold that interferes with progress in developmental skills or academic performance, social-emotional development, or linguistic and communicative skills.

Students who are Blind/Low Vision must also meet the following requirements:

1. Have a documented eye condition that causes an impairment as manifested by:
 - a. a visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after best possible correction, or
 - b. a peripheral field so constricted that it affects the student's ability to function in an educational setting, or
 - c. a progressive loss of vision which may affect the student's ability to function in an educational setting (not including visual perceptual and/or visual motor difficulties), or
 - d. under 5 years old and is unable to be assessed, has a bilateral lack of central steady, or maintained fixation of vision with an estimated visual acuity of 20/70 or less after best possible correction, or other condition as described in 6D-3.002(1)(p).
2. Have a functional vision loss which inhibits optimal processing of information through the visual channel and requires the use of specialized techniques, textbooks, materials, or equipment.

Students who are Dual-Sensory Impaired must also meet the following requirements:

1. Evidence of a vision loss as described above, or have a functional vision loss.
2. Evidence of a hearing loss as described above, or have a functional hearing loss.

For more information, call FSDB Parent Services toll-free at 1-800-344-3732 (voice & text) weekdays, by videophone at 904-201-4527 or 904-201-4523, or call the FSDB Registrar at 904-827-2220, between the hours of 8:00 am-4:30 pm.