

Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

Purchase Policy for Low-Vision Devices

The Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinics are funded through the Colorado Department of Education's Exceptional Student Services Unit (CDE ESSU) with additional in-kind support from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB). These funds allow clinic team members to travel to four to five regional sites during each school year. The clinic evaluations are for students who identified as special education learners and who have an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The 90-minute clinic evaluations are at no cost to families or school districts other than the personal travel expenses of getting to and from the clinic site.

There are no CDE or CSDB funds to purchase low-vision devices for students. Arrangements have been made, however, to provide low-vision devices at an "at-cost" level of funding. As such, there is no markup from the wholesaler. The average cost of a near-vision device (helping the student to see things up close) is about \$30 to \$50. The average cost of a distance vision device (helping the student see things far away) is about \$45. Devices cannot be purchased unless they have been prescribed through a CDE-sponsored clinic. The prescription is valid only one year from the date of the last clinic in which a student participated.

The funding of any prescribed low-vision device is the responsibility of the family and/or other funding sources. This is an important consideration that should be discussed with the family and/or other personnel before a student is signed up to participate in a low-vision clinic.

Please Note: The Low Vision Evaluation Clinic does not want finances to be a barrier to benefiting from the clinic. If there are special circumstances surrounding a student and their family and other resources have been exhausted, please contact a member of the clinic team for possible solutions.

On the day of the Low Vision Evaluation Clinic, the optometrist/ophthalmologist will discuss what device(s) would be of benefit to the student. The recommendation of the device is made based on the evaluation of the student's near and distance vision needs. The device will be demonstrated to the student and the attending family members. The device must be purchased before it can be sent home or mailed to the family.

The methods for payment include either check or cash on the day of the clinic. The Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic does not have the capacity to take credit cards. If devices need to be purchased after the day of the clinic, contact Roberta Curtis statewide clinic coordinator at curtis_r@cde.state.co.us.

Families and school districts will not receive any ordered devices until payment is received.

Checks or money orders should be made out to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) and mailed to **The Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic, c/o CSDB, 33 North Institute Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.**