

Focus on Literacy

The **Community Low Vision Center** (CLVC) is a division of Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, Inc. (IFB). As the largest employer in the nation of people who are legally blind, IFB promotes the independence and success of all people who are visually impaired. As funding permits, **CLVC** provides an array of programs and services to help support the needs of individuals in communities across North Carolina.

Focus on Literacy is a one of a kind project designed to enhance the core literacy skills of students with visual impairments by providing greater access to independent learning outside of the classroom setting.

Established in 2004, **Focus on Literacy** provides optical aids and specialty low vision eye exams, free of charge, to any school-age child with a documented visual impairment that resides in any of North Carolina's 100 counties. No payment is required but all donations are gladly accepted. Equipment placement is considered a long-term loan and is funded wholly by contribution and grant monies. **Focus on Literacy** has served hundreds of children since inception.

In order to be able to meet the needs of the greatest number of children, **Focus on Literacy** is limited to provision of the following items and services:

- Low vision exams provided by CLVC's low vision specialist
- Desktop model video magnification systems (CCTVs)
- Handheld/Stand/Light gathering or other standard (non-electronic) magnifiers
- Single-license low vision computer software, such as iZoom or ZoomText

The Parent/Guardian agrees to accept responsibility for the following:

- Complete and sign a Focus on Literacy application.
- Provide CLVC with the student's beginning and end of year test grade scores- **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE CONTINUED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FUTURE LITERACY STUDENTS.** Please bring these test scores with you for your initial **Focus on Literacy** Appointment.
- Notify CLVC of any residence changes and return or purchase equipment for a nominal fee if the student relocates outside NC.
- Return equipment upon graduation from high school so it can be recycled for future literacy students, or purchase for a nominal fee.
- Notify CLVC for assistance with any equipment, usage issues, or in the event there is a change in the type of equipment needed so we can best accommodate the student.

The Equipment Recommendation portion of the **Focus on Literacy** application must be completed by a CLVC employee, teacher of the visually impaired, or other qualified professional. CLVC can provide a list of alternative resources for assistance in purchasing needed equipment if it is not covered under the program's current constraints.

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