



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SCALE OF  
SERVICE INTENSITY OF TEXAS

## Instructions for Completing the *VISSIT*

1. Collect and review all relevant and current evaluations completed for the student.
2. Fill in the name of the student, date of scale completion, and name of the TVI completing the scale at the top of the first page of the scale.
3. Begin with the ECC Skill Area column. Read each ECC skill area and subsection, if there are any (e.g., COMPENSATORY SKILLS: Literacy Instruction, Organization and Study Skills, etc.).
4. Work from left to right for each ECC Skill Area to fill in a value (0, 1, 4, 7, or 10) for both columns (Direct Instruction from TVI and Educational Team Support/Collaboration) to indicate level of student need. *You must enter one of these five numbers for each ECC area on the scale.*
5. At the bottom of each column on each page, add the values and put the column total for that page in the box labeled **Page Total for each column** for each page if you are entering scores by hand on a paper copy. If you are entering scores on the electronic pdf version of the *VISSIT*, the numbers entered will automatically add up at the bottom of each page for you.
6. Add the values for each column from the **Page Total** boxes on each page and enter the number in the boxes labeled **Column Subtotal** at the bottom of the last page of the scale for both Direct Instruction Column Subtotal (**box A**) and Educational Team Support Column Subtotal (**box E**) (see sample below). If you are entering scores by hand on a paper copy. If you are entering scores on the electronic pdf version of the *VISSIT*, the numbers entered will automatically add up at the bottom of each page for you.

### SCORING INSTRUCTIONS - DIRECT INSTRUCTION COLUMN

7. For the **Direct Instruction** column, determine whether or not **transition** is a contributing factor to the student's educational needs to be addressed by the TVI. If the student is making a significant transition, write **'+10'** in the **Contributing Factor: Transition box (box B)** under the Direct Instruction Column Subtotal (**box A**). If transition is not a factor, write **'0'** in **box B** (see sample below).

COLUMN SUBTOTALS	Direct Instruction Column Subtotal		Educational Team Support Column Subtotal	
	A	SAMPLE	E	SAMPLE
Contributing Factor: Transition	B	SAMPLE	F	SAMPLE
Contributing Factor: Medical Status/Condition	C	SAMPLE	G	SAMPLE
Additional Areas of Family Support Subtotal			H	SAMPLE
TOTAL	D	SAMPLE	I	SAMPLE

8. Next, determine whether or not the **student's medical status or condition** is a contributing factor to the student's educational needs to be addressed by the TVI. If the student has medical issues that would increase the student's need for TVI direct service, write **'+10'** in **Contributing Factor: Medical Status/Condition box (box C)**. If not, write **'0'** in **box C**. If the student has significant medical issues that would decrease the student's capacity to receive TVI direct service, write **'-10'** in **box C**. (see sample above)
9. Add the three values from **box A**, **box B**, and **box C**. Write the score in the **'TOTAL' box (box D)** for the Direct Instruction column if you are completing the scale by hand on a paper copy. If you are entering scores on the electronic pdf version of the *VISSIT*, the numbers entered will automatically add up at the bottom of the page in the **'TOTAL' box (box D)** for you. (see sample above)

### **SCORING INSTRUCTIONS – EDUCATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT/COLLABORATION COLUMN**

10. For the **Educational Team Support** column, determine whether or not **transition** is a contributing factor to the student's needs for team support from the TVI. If the student is making a significant transition, write **'+10'** in the **Contributing Factor: Transition factors box (box F)** under the Educational Team Support Column Subtotal (**box E**). If transition is not a factor, write **'0'** in **box F** (see sample above).
11. Next, determine whether or not the student's **medical status or condition** is a contributing factor to the student's needs for team support from the TVI. If the student has significant medical issues that would increase the educational team support/collaboration needed from the TVI, write **'+10'** in **Contributing Factor: Medical Issues box (box G)**. If not, write **'0'** in **box G**. If the student has any medical issues that would decrease the TVI educational team support/collaboration service need, write **'-10'** in **box G** (see sample above).
12. Complete the **Additional Areas of Family Support (AAFS) Table** that follows the scale total section by adding a value to each of the five listed areas of need for family support. Add the values and get the subtotal for the **AAFS Table (box H)**. Enter the AAFS subtotal in **box H** at the end of the scale if you are completing the scale by hand on a paper copy. If you are entering scores on the electronic pdf version of the *VISSIT*, the numbers entered will automatically be entered into **Box H** for you (see sample above).
13. Add the four values from **box E**, **box F**, **box G**, and **box H**. Write the score in the 'Total' box (**box I**) for the Educational Team Support/Collaboration column if you are completing the scale by hand on a paper copy. If you are entering scores on the electronic pdf version of the *VISSIT*, the numbers entered will automatically add up at the bottom **TOTAL box** for you (see sample above).
14. Using the totals found on the *VISSIT* Scale, refer to the **INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING RANGES FROM SCALE TOTALS** that follows the scale.

## Instructions for Determining Ranges from Scale Totals

COLUMN SUBTOTALS	Direct Instruction Column Subtotal		Educational Team Support Column Subtotal	
	A	(Example: 101)	E	(Example: 30)
Contributing Factor: Transition	B	(Example: +10)	F	(Example: 0)
Contributing Factor: Medical Status/Condition	C	(Example: -10)	G	(Example: 0)
Additional Areas of Family Support Subtotal			H	(Example: 10)
<b>TOTAL</b>	D	(Example: 101)	I	(Example: 40)

1. After determining the total **Direct Instruction** need in **Total Box D**, transfer the score in **box D** to the corresponding value on the range of recommended direct service time for the score on **Recommended Schedule of Service Minutes - Direct Service Time** in **Column 3** if you are entering the information by hand on a paper copy. If you are using the electronic pdf version of the *VISS/IT*, the total score from Box D will automatically go into Column 3 on the Direct Service Time Scoring Sheet. Choose an exact recommended amount of service time that will best suit your student's needs from the range of suggested service time in Column 2 on the row in which the total score falls and enter that number in minutes per week in Column 4. Write a brief explanation about why you chose this amount of service time below the chart. Include a justification of this recommendation based on the student's need scores from the *VISS/IT* scale. See example below:

<u><b>DIRECT SERVICE TIME</b></u>		<b>TOTAL (box D) from direct service column</b>	<b>YOUR RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF DIRECT SERVICE TIME (MINUTES PER WEEK)</b>
Score on rubric	Suggested service time		
106+	600 or more minutes/wk	SAMPLE	SAMPLE
97 - 106	480 - 600 minutes/wk	(Example: 101)	(Example: 480 minutes/wk)

Example explanation: Student needs to have at least 2 class periods per day of direct instruction because of complete vision loss due to an accident; student needs intense braille, tactile graphics, technology, O&M, ILS, and self-determination instruction.

2. After determining the total **Educational Team Support** need in **Total Box I**, transfer the score in **box I** to the corresponding value on the range of recommended team support/collaboration service time for the score on **Recommended Schedule of Service Minutes - Educational Team Support/Collaboration** scoring sheet in Column 3 if you are entering the information by hand on a paper copy. If you are using the electronic pdf version of the *V/SS/T*, the total score from Box I will automatically go into Column 3 on the Educational Team Support/Collaboration Time Scoring Sheet. Choose an exact recommended amount of service time that will best suit your student's needs from the range of suggested service time in Column 2 on the row in which the total score falls and enter that number in minutes per week in Column 4. Write a brief explanation about why you chose this amount of service time below the chart. Include a justification of this recommendation based on the student's need scores from the *V/SS/T* See sample below.

<b><u>EDUCATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT/COLLABORATION TIME</u></b>		<b>TOTAL (box I) from the educational team support/ collaboration column</b>	<b>YOUR RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT/COLLABORATION SERVICE TIME (MINUTES PER WEEK)</b>
Score on rubric	Suggested service time		
47 – 57	30 - 70 minutes/wk	SAMPLE	SAMPLE
40 – 46	15 - 30 minutes/wk	(Example: 44)	(Example: 15 minutes/wk)

Example explanation: TVI will consult with student's team for 1 hour per month (equals 15 minutes/wk) .

## Recommended Schedule of Service Minutes - Direct Service Time

<u><b>DIRECT SERVICE TIME</b></u>		<b>TOTAL (box D) from direct service column</b>	<b>YOUR RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF DIRECT SERVICE TIME (MINUTES PER WEEK)</b>
<b>Score on rubric</b>	<b>Range of suggested service time</b>		
EXAMPLE: 45-59	120 - 180 minutes/wk	50	120 minutes/wk
106+	600 or more minutes/wk		
97 - 106	480 - 600 minutes/wk		
86 -96	360 - 480 minutes/wk		
75 - 85	270 - 360 minutes/wk		
60 -74	180 - 270 minutes/wk		
45 - 59	120 - 180 minutes/wk		
38 – 44	90 - 120 minutes/wk		
29 – 37	60 - 90 minutes/wk		
17 – 28	30 - 60 minutes/wk		
10 - 16	15 - 30 minutes/wk		
0 – 9	0 - 15 minutes/wk		
<p><b>BASED on a 2400-minute/per week system---</b></p> <p>2400 minutes in a school week (includes a 7 hour, 15 minute school day, plus 45 minutes for lunch [lunch time can be used for instruction])</p> <p>2400 min per week = 480 minutes per day available for instruction</p>			

### **Explanation and Justification for Recommended Amount of Service Time**

Explain how the minutes per week will be distributed (e.g., 30 minutes, 3 times per week = 90 minutes per week; one hour per month = 15 minutes per week, etc.):

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If recommended service time as indicated by the V/SS/T does not match the IEP team's decided amount of service time, please state the factors or reasons why this discrepancy occurred.

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### Recommended Schedule of Service Minutes - Educational Team Support/Collaboration

<b><u>EDUCATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT/COLLABORATION TIME</u></b>		<b>TOTAL (box I) from the educational team support/ collaboration column</b>	<b>YOUR RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT/COLLABORATION SERVICE TIME  (MINUTES PER WEEK)</b>
Score on rubric	Range of suggested service time		
EXAMPLE: 69-80	110 - 150 minutes/wk	70	120 minutes/wk
112+	600 or more minutes/wk		
101 - 111	450 - 600 minutes/wk		
91 - 100	300 - 450 minutes/wk		
81 - 90	150 - 300 minutes/wk		
69 - 80	110 - 150 minutes/wk		
58 - 68	70 - 110 minutes/wk		
47 - 57	30 - 70 minutes/wk		
40 - 46	15 - 30 minutes/wk		
27 - 39	10 - 15 minutes/wk		
14 - 26	5 - 10 minutes/wk		
0 - 13	0 - 5 minutes/wk		
<b>BASED on a 2400-minute/per week system---</b>  2400 minutes in a school week (includes a 7 hour, 15 minute school day, plus 45 minutes for lunch [lunch time can be used for instruction])			

2400 min per week = 480 minutes per day available for instruction

**Explanation and Justification for Recommended Amount of Service Time**

Explain how the minutes per week will be distributed (e.g., 30 minutes, 3 times per week = 90 minutes per week; one hour per month = 15 minutes per week, etc.):

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If recommended service time as indicated by the *VISST* does not match the IEP team's decided amount of service time, please state the factors or reasons why this discrepancy occurred.

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**VISSIT: VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SCALE OF SERVICE INTENSITY OF TEXAS**



Student: \_\_\_\_\_ TVI: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Type of TVI Service 	Direct Instruction from TVI	Educational Team Support/Collaboration
	0=no need at this time	0=no need at this time
	1=low need-occasional support and maintenance of skills	1=low need-teacher(s)/family needs infrequent support for established routines/ IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/curriculum
	4=medium need-needs skills but lower priority; generalization and fluency development	4=medium need-teacher(s)/family needs some support for development and maintenance of routines/ IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/ curriculum
	7=high need-priority; complete mastery of introduced skills	7=high need-teacher(s)/family needs ongoing support for established routines/ implementation of IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/ curriculum
	10=intense need-priority; acquisition of new skills	10=intense need-teacher(s)/family needs ongoing support to establish new routines/ implement IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/ use of curriculum
<b>ECC Skill Area</b> 		
<b>COMPENSATORY SKILLS</b>		
<b>Literacy Instruction</b>		
Includes emergent literacy, pre-braille, braille, Nemeth, access to print materials, alternate literacy through signs and pictures, etc.		
<b>Organization and Study Skills</b>		
Includes note-taking, research, time & material management, calendar/ schedule system, etc.		
<b>Communication Modes</b>		
Includes body responses, gestures, object/tactile/picture symbols, calendars, sign language, tactile signs for students who are deafblind		
	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Direct Column</b>	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Educational Team Support Column</b>
	0	0

Type of TVI Service 	Direct Instruction from TVI	Educational Team Support/Collaboration
	0=no need at this time	0=no need at this time
	1=low need-occasional support and maintenance of skills	1=low need-teacher(s)/family needs infrequent support for established routines/ IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/curriculum
	4=medium need-needs skills but lower priority; generalization and fluency development	4=medium need-teacher(s)/family needs some support for development and maintenance of routines/ IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/ curriculum
	7=high need-priority; complete mastery of introduced skills	7=high need-teacher(s)/family needs ongoing support for established routines/ implementation of IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/ curriculum
	10=intense need-priority; acquisition of new skills	10=intense need-teacher(s)/family needs ongoing support to establish new routines/ implement IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/ use of curriculum
<b>ECC Skill Area</b> 		
<b>Access to Core Curriculum</b>		
Includes access to English/language arts, math concepts, math tools, tactile graphics, science, social studies, art, music, and P.E.		
<b>Concept Development</b>		
Includes functional, concrete (object permanence, environmental), and abstract (spatial, time, positional) concepts		
<b>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY</b>		
<b>Electronic Devices</b>		
Includes braille notetakers, electronic brailers, tablets, mobile devices, audio devices, readers, switches, deafblind-specific technology, etc.		
	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Direct Column</b>	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Educational Team Support Column</b>
	0	0

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	0=no need at this time	0=no need at this time
	1=low need-occasional support and maintenance of skills	1=low need-teacher(s)/family needs infrequent support for established routines/ IEP goals & objectives/ modeling/curriculum
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<b>ECC Skill Area</b> 		
<b>Computer Access</b>		
Includes magnification, screen reading, alternative keyboards, keyboarding, etc.		
<b>Low-Tech Devices</b>		
Includes abacus, manual braille, reading stand, optical devices, etc.		
<b>SOCIAL INTERACTION SKILLS</b>		
Includes gestures, facial expressions, conversation skills, body language, developing relationships, personal space, human sexuality, etc.		
	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Direct Column</b>	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Educational Team Support Column</b>
	0	0

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<b>ECC Skill Area</b> 		
<b>INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS</b>		
Includes functional skills needed for personal care, time and money management, food preparation, clothing care, household maintenance, etc.		
<b>CAREER EDUCATION</b>		
Includes learning about jobs and work-related skills, assuming responsibilities, evaluating vocational interests, exploring and participating in work experiences, preparing for transition, etc.		
<b>SENSORY EFFICIENCY SKILLS</b>		
Includes teaching functional use of vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste		
	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Direct Column</b>	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Educational Team Support Column</b>
	0	0

Type of TVI Service 	Direct Instruction from TVI	Educational Team Support/Collaboration
	0=no need at this time	0=no need at this time
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<b>ECC Skill Area</b> 		
<b>RECREATION/LEISURE SKILLS</b>		
Includes investigating and experiencing recreation and leisure options, including games, sports, social events, and personal interests		
<b>O&amp;M SUPPORT FROM TVI</b>		
Includes collaborating with the O&M specialist to support basic skills (guide technique, protective techniques, alignment, sound localization) and orientation and monitoring student safety		
	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Direct Column</b>	<b>PAGE TOTAL for Educational Team Support Column</b>
	0	0

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<b>ECC Skill Area</b> 		
<b>SELF-DETERMINATION</b>		
Includes enabling student choice-making, self-evaluation, self-advocacy, and assertiveness		
<b>COLUMN SUBTOTALS</b>	Direct Instruction Column Subtotal A      0	Educational Team Support Column Subtotal E      0
<b>Contributing Factor: Transition</b>	B	F
<b>Contributing Factor: Medical Status/Condition</b>	C	G
<b>Additional Areas of Family Support Subtotal</b>		H      0
<b>TOTAL</b>	D      0	I      0

### ***Additional Areas of Family Support (AAFS) Table***

<b>Areas of Family Need</b>	<b>Value Range</b>	
<i>There is a need for:</i>	0=No Need 1=Low Need 4=Medium Need 7=High Need 10=Intense Need	
Consistency of educational concepts across school and home settings (e.g., communication systems, behavioral techniques, routines, independent living skills, environmental adaptations, adapted toys/equipment, etc.).		
Connecting family members to outside agencies and support services (e.g., family organizations, state and local community resources including related agencies, camps, respite, etc.).		
Facilitating active family participation in special education meetings and medical visits (e.g., training on special education laws and guidelines, interpreting medical information, accompanying family to medical visits).		
Assistance in overcoming cultural/language differences.		
Strategies to support family members in bonding and interactions with their child.		
<b>AAFS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>0</b>

**Back to Totals**

**Recommended Schedule of Service Minutes - Direct Service Time**

<b><u>DIRECT SERVICE TIME</u></b>		<b>TOTAL (box D) from direct service column</b>	<b>YOUR RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF DIRECT SERVICE TIME (MINUTES PER WEEK)</b>
<b>Score on rubric</b>	<b>Range of suggested service time</b>		
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17 – 28	30 - 60 minutes/wk		
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0 – 9	0 - 15 minutes/wk	0	
BASED on a 2400-minute/per week system--- 2400 minutes in a school week (includes a 7 hour, 15 minute school day, plus 45 minutes for lunch [lunch time can be used for instruction]) 2400 min per week = 480 minutes per day available for instruction			

**Explanation and Justification for Recommended Amount of Service Time**

Explain how the minutes per week will be distributed (e.g., 30 minutes, 3 times per week = 90 minutes per week; one hour per month = 15 minutes per week, etc.):

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**Recommended Schedule of Service Minutes - Educational Team Support/Collaboration**

<b><u>EDUCATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT/COLLABORATION TIME</u></b>		<b>TOTAL (box I) from the educational team support/ collaboration column</b>	<b>YOUR RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT/COLLABORATION SERVICE TIME (MINUTES PER WEEK)</b>
<b>Score on rubric</b>	<b>Range of suggested service time</b>		
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