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CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND



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Resolution 2017-1 Restrictions on orientation and mobility and special education teaching instruction

Whereas, elementary and secondary education students who are blind or have low vision need a variety of specialized services, including braille, orientation and mobility, and technology instruction, in order to maximize their potential to live independent and productive lives; and

Whereas, these and other specialized services necessary for students who are blind or have low vision are collectively known as the expanded core curriculum; and

Whereas, school districts in California and throughout the nation have begun imposing restrictions that limit or preclude orientation and mobility and special education instructors to provide instruction in these services; and

Whereas, these restrictions include, but are not limited to, prohibiting any instruction before or after school, prohibiting all off-campus orientation and mobility instruction, forbidding preschool students from being taken off campus for such instruction, limiting instruction to within a small radius of the school, as for example three blocks, requiring parental consent for every off-campus trip, when receiving orientation and mobility instruction, and requiring, as a condition of after-school instruction, that a parent be present to sign out the student; and

Whereas, not only do these unreasonable restrictions violate rights of students who are blind or have low vision guaranteed under state and federal law to receive necessary educational services, but even more importantly, these restrictions create enormous gaps in instruction essential for the success of a blind or low vision student to live independently, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the California Council of the Blind in convention assembled this 9th day of April, 2017, at the Hilton Woodland Hills/Los Angeles Hotel, in the city of Woodland Hills, that this organization take the steps necessary to prohibit school districts from imposing unreasonable restrictions upon teachers of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility instructors when providing instruction in elements of the expanded core curriculum, and be it further

Resolved, that, in recognition of the fact that this problem is national in scope, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the American Council of the Blind for consideration at its 2017 National Convention.