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**Sample Form: Physician Certification**  
for Specialized Formats for Students with Reading Disabilities  
(Please see other side for additional information.)

**Please Print or Type:**

Student Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Disability** Organic dysfunction of sufficient severity to prevent reading printed materials in a normal manner. *In the case of a reading disability **from an organic dysfunction**, the certifying authority must be a **doctor of medicine**, who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines*

- Yes, I certify that the student's reading disability is of an organic nature.**
- No, this is not a reading disability of an organic nature.**

**Competent Authority**

Signature/title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the student's school, attention ESE Specialist:

\_\_\_\_\_

**School Contact Information**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your information on behalf of this student.

***SAMPLE Form: Physician's Role***  
in considering Specialized Formats for Students with Reading Disabilities  
(Please complete form on other side of paper.)

You have been asked to act as a **competent authority** to determine whether or not your patient is eligible to receive curricular materials in an accessible format. Many agencies provide textbooks and other instructional materials in **specialized formats** to qualified students to help them meet their educational goals.

Why does my patient need my **signature** on this application?

Federal Law requires that a doctor of medicine certify that a reading disability is of an organic nature.

What are **specialized formats**?

Specialized formats include Braille, large print, audio, or digital text that can be used with electronic text readers or displayed on monitors.

How can **specialized formats** benefit my patient?

These formats help to accommodate students whose disabilities make it difficult for them to learn from traditional print materials. For example, students with a neurological impairment may benefit from audio or digital books.

How do I know if my patient's reading disability has an **organic** cause?

- **Organic** causes of reading problems include those related to dysfunction of the neural pathways required for fluent reading. These pathways involve brain structures.
  
- **Nonorganic** causes of reading problems include those unrelated to the neural pathway problems described above. Examples of **nonorganic** causes would include limited English proficiency, lack of instruction, poor attendance, oppositional-defiant disorder, and behavioral disorders.