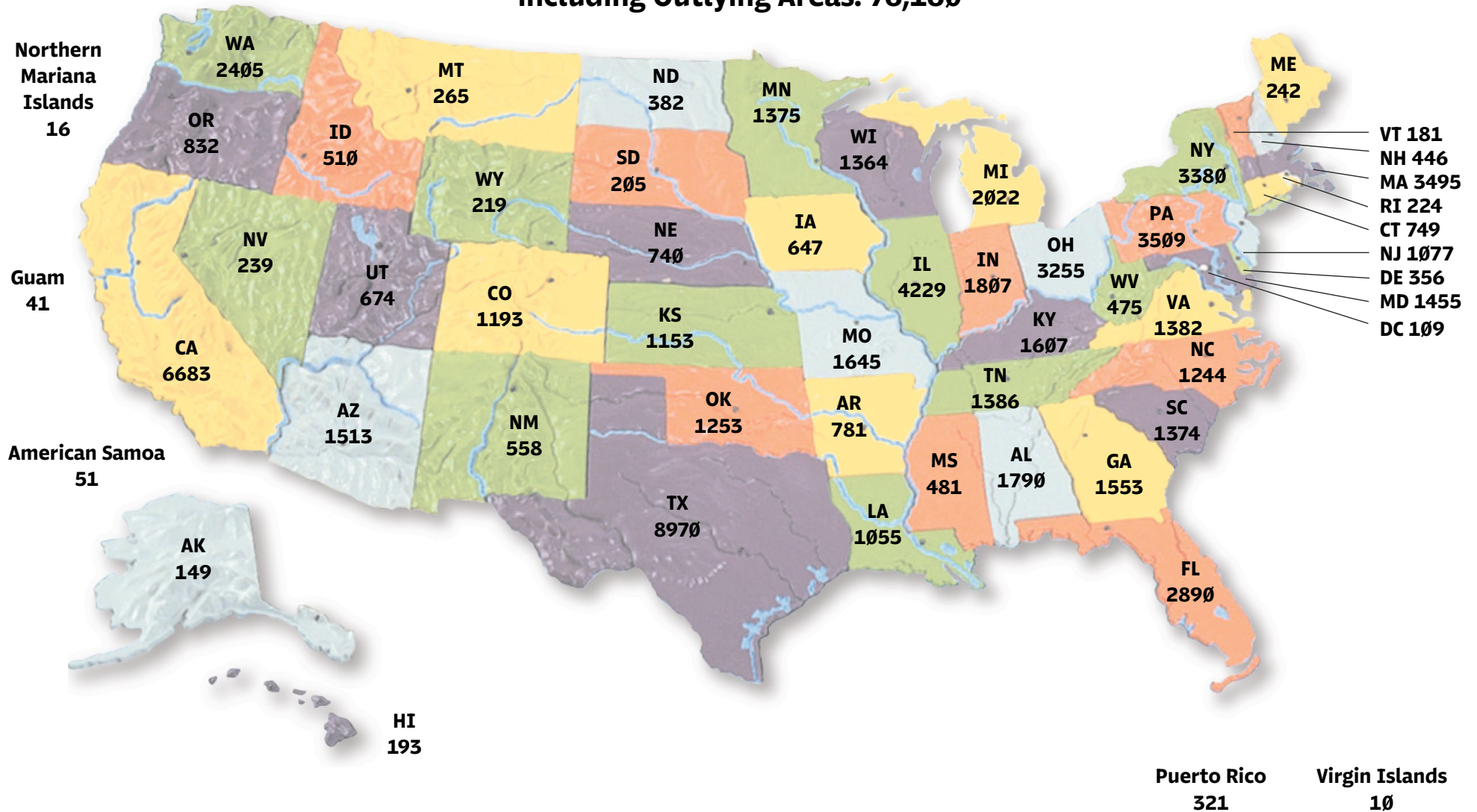


Act to Promote the Education of the Blind of 1879

Number of Blind and Visually Impaired Students Registered in the Federal Quota Program As of January 2025

Total Students in the United States,
including Outlying Areas: 76,160





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About the Federal Quota Program

The Federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind was passed by Congress in 1879 to provide adapted educational materials to eligible students working at less than college level who meet the definition of blindness. An annual registration of eligible students determines a per-capita amount of money designated for the purchase of educational materials produced by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). These funds are credited to Federal Quota accounts, which are maintained and administered by APH and its Ex Officio Trustees (EOTs) throughout the country and outlying areas.

APH is responsible for the overall administration of this law, which is accomplished through a network of professionals designated as EOTs. These professionals are the heads of residential schools for the blind; chief state school officers of each state department of education; heads of private, nonprofit schools for the blind; heads of programs for students who are multiply disabled; and heads of rehabilitation agencies. EOTs in each state and outlying area are legally entrusted with the administration of the Federal Quota Program for students within their systems. Registration of students and all orders for materials to be purchased with Federal Quota funds must be directed through EOTs.

For over 140 years, the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind has been affecting positive change in the lives of Americans who are visually impaired. Through materials that range from accessible books to fine motor development materials, from braille writing equipment to digital access technology, APH and the Act address the specific learning needs that a vision loss creates.

The purpose of the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind is to place the most appropriate educational aids, tools, and supplies in the hands and lives of every student with vision loss below college level. APH works in partnership with the federal government to help these students achieve in the classroom and succeed in the workplace.