

## **VISION IMPAIRMENT**

Difficulties with vision take many forms, with a wide range of implications for a student's education. These span relatively minor and remediable conditions to total blindness. Whatever the cause of the student's vision impairment, the major indicators in identifying and assessing the required teaching and learning adjustments will relate to the student's degree and nature of functional vision and ability to adapt socially and psychologically.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

The following evidence is required to be submitted in order for Disability Services and Support to confirm eligibility for funding:

1. A diagnosis from an ophthalmologist or optometrist indicating the severity and nature of the vision impairment of:
  - visual acuity that is 6/18 or weaker in the better eye after correction and/or a visual field of 20 degrees or less
  - an orthoptist report may provide supporting evidence however does not confirm eligibility.
  
2. Documentation on the educational implications, including evidence of one or more of the following, resulting from the vision loss:
  - the student uses/will use braille
  - the student needs modified print in all areas of the curriculum
  - the student requires support to gain safe and effective access to the curriculum
  - mobility training is required
  - the student experiences significant emotional or behavioural difficulties
  - impaired ability to participate in learning activities and/or participate in aspects of preschool/school life
  - a marked discrepancy between the student's attainment in the learning areas and the attainment of the majority of learners of the same age.

Please note: Disability Services and Support may liaise with SSEN Sensory to confirm the student is accessing the curriculum through braille.

### **Privacy and Confidentiality**

The Department of Education is committed to protecting privacy, integrity of information obtained and confidentiality. All personal information must be obtained by lawful and fair means with the knowledge and consent of the person to whom it relates. Persons must be told why personal information is being collated and whether it may be accessible to any third party.

This includes parents of students who are under 18 years of age.

**Parents or carers are directed to contact local school staff for further information.**