



Fact Sheet Series

Students with Vision Impairments

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A service of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy

ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH VISION IMPAIRMENTS

According to the American Foundation for the Blind, there are an estimated 93,600 children between the ages of birth and 21 who are blind or visually impaired and being served by some form of Special Education in the United States. The term visual impairment includes conditions ranging from the presence of good usable vision, to low vision, to the absence of any sight at all – total blindness.

The following is a quick overview of some of the accommodations that might be useful for students with vision impairments. For a more in depth discussion, access JAN's publications at <http://askjan.org/media/atoz.htm>. To discuss an accommodation situation with a consultant, contact JAN directly.

Improving Mobility in the Classroom & Educational Facility:

- Mobility and orientation training
- Training with or allow the use of a mobility aid, such as a cane
- Tactile map of evacuation route and an emergency evacuation “partner” along with Evacuation training

Accessing Printed Materials:

- Hand or stand magnification
- Materials in large print or enlarged on a photo copier
- Task lighting
- Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV)
- Optical devices
- Bold-lined paper or writing guides
- Braille books and materials
- Braille slate and stylus
- Talking books
- Optical Character Recognition (OCR) system or a text reader
- Tactile image enhancer
- Qualified reader

Learning Mathematics and Science:

- Large display/button calculators
- Talking calculators (business, scientific, & statistical)
- Abacus
- Nemeth code
- Tactile image enhancer for tactile math graphics or science diagrams
- Large print, tactile, or talking measuring tools
- Talking thermometer
- Liquid level indicator
- Talking scale

- Large display, tactile, or talking timer or stopwatch
- Three-dimensional tactile models

Accessing Computer:

- Accessibility options on PC for increasing the font size
- External computer screen magnifier or screen magnification software
- Large print or Braille keyboards, key tops, or labels
- Screen reading software
- Computer Braille display and Braille printer or embosser

Improving Personal Management Skills:

- Talking or Braille watches
- Braille or talking note takers or personal data assistants (PDA's)
- Voice activated personal organizers
- Digital recorder

Resources for Students with Vision Impairments

American Foundation for the Blind

11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300
 New York, NY 10001
 Toll Free: (800) AFB-LINE or 232-5463
 Direct: (212) 502-7600
 Fax: (212) 502-777
afbininfo@afb.net
<http://www.afb.org>

American Printing House for the Blind

1839 Frankfort Avenue
 P O Box 6085
 Louisville, KY 40206-0085
 Toll Free: (800) 223-1839 (US and Canada)
 Direct: (502) 895-2405
 Fax: (502) 899-2274
info@aph.org
<http://www.aph.org>

Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)

107 Commerce Center Drive, Suite 204
 Huntersville, NC 28078
 Voice/TTY: (704) 947-7779
 Fax: (704) 948-7779
ahead@ahead.org
<http://ahead.org/>

The National Library Service for the Blind

Library of Congress
1291 Taylor Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
Toll Free: (888) NLS-READ or 657-7323
Direct: (202) 707-5100
TDD: (202) 707-0744
Fax: (202) 707-0712
nls@loc.gov
<http://www.loc.gov/nls/>

Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic

20 Roszel Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
Toll Free: (866) RFBD-585 or 732-3585
Member Services: (800) 221-4792
<http://www.rfbd.org>

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