



5.7 Vision Best Practices

BEST PRACTICES FOR INCLUDING A STUDENT WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT IN YOUR GENERAL EDUCATION CLASS.

Collaborate: You are now part of a larger team!

- Get to know your students' learning profiles by asking them questions.
- Keep in touch with your student's Teacher of the Visually Impaired regularly.
- Ask LOTS of questions.

Dig in: Get to know your student

Learn about your student's vision needs in a variety of environments, including the gym and the outdoors. Review vision reports. Your student's Teacher of the Visually Impaired can provide you with additional information.

Ask your student specific questions about their learning preference:

- What is the best seating placement for your vision?
- Do you find it difficult to see at times?
- Do you use any tools to assist you in seeing the board?
- Can you read the information on the board (or anywhere in the classroom)?
- Do you prefer a large print or different fonts?
- Do you need more time to complete assignments or tests?
- What information can I leave a TTOC about your learning preferences?

Small but Important Changes: Promote an inclusive environment

- Create a clutter-free environment to help ensure safe travel around the classroom and school.
- Provide high contrast options, such as a brightly painted hook to hang a coat or bag.
- Ensure appropriate lighting that reduces or eliminates glare.
- Go digital - provide digital materials instead of hard copies.
- Provide clear and easy-to-read print materials. Avoid photocopying already poorly copied materials.
- Read out information written or presented on the board.

Plan ahead. Your student may need large print or brailled materials which should be created before your lesson, and more ideally, before you begin a unit.



Finally, it will be in your best interest to stay in touch with your student's Teacher of the Visually Impaired. This teacher will help you design your curriculum to ensure inclusion, support you in finding resources, prep materials for your student and offer you additional training if you would like.