

COMMON CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENT



What is Visual Impairment?

Visual impairment is a partial or total loss of sight that cannot be fully fixed with regular glasses, contact lenses, medicine, or surgery. It ranges from mild low vision to complete blindness and affects how a person does everyday tasks like reading or walking.

Classroom Accommodations

- Preferential seating in class, assemblies, and films.
- Ensure all doors, storage areas, or cabinets are either completely open or closed at all times.
- Copies of text and reading materials with appropriate adaptations will be readily available at the student's desk to support access to the content.
- Any electronic device used to aid in schoolwork should be at student's eye level and tilted to avoid a glare.
- Provide the student with a clutter-free workspace and minimize visual distractions.
- Allow student to use modified writing tools.
- Provide single sided paper to the student.
- Provide a supplementary light source.
- Provide flexibility with assignment completion to accommodate visual fatigue, including adjustments to the workload and pacing.
- All written materials should be in a bold, easy to read font.
- Offer oral evaluations in place of written evaluations.
- Provide raised maps, illustrations, and diagrams for the student.
- Allow the student to move around the classroom as needed to view instructional materials and access information presented away from their desk.
- Create emergency procedures for the student to follow during situations such as a school evacuation.
- Provide the student with adapted copies of reading materials at their desk.
- Lay out and show the student where the materials are located on their desk or working area.
- Allow for early dismissal from class to get to the next class on time.
- Darken or highlight margins or lines on paper if dark lined writing paper is not available.
- Provide access to any magnifying devices for viewing or completing class tasks.
- Provide the student with enlarged print materials; textbooks, workbooks, worksheets.
- Provide the student with audio books or an audiotape recorder, tapes, and an known location of where to work.
- Standardized tests in large print or Braille.
- Avoid having students work in their own shadow or facing the light.
- Have a consultation with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

For More Information

Visit [NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired](https://www.nj.gov/education/Commission-for-the-Blind-and-Visually-Impaired/).

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