



Definitions of blindness, low vision, partially sighted:

1. Low Vision - is a term used to describe a permanent and significant loss of visual function including either visual acuity (*Measurement*. Assessment of the eye's ability to distinguish object details and shape, using the smallest identifiable object that can be seen at a specified distance: usually 20 ft. or 16 in.), visual field (*Function*. Full extent of the area visible to an eye that is fixating straight ahead. Measure in degrees from fixation), or both. Low vision cannot be fully corrected with conventional glasses, contact lenses, surgery or medication.

Causes of low vision: Low vision may be genetic and begin at birth such as aniridia; it may be developed during the lifetime due to such an eye disease as retinitis pigmentosa; or it may be caused by an accident, such as optic atrophy due to a brain injury. Some eye diseases such as albinism are stable, while others progressively deteriorate, often resulting in low vision followed by total blindness such as retinal detachment.

2. Legal blindness - is when a child's best-corrected visual acuity is 20/200 or less, or there is a reduction in the visual field to 20 degrees or less, in the child's better seeing eye.

3. Partially Sighted - has been used to describe a population of children and adults who have impaired sight and who use vision as their primary learning mode.

4. Total blindness - is when a child has the inability to see; the absence or severe reduction of vision.

5. Eligibility Criteria for the Visually Impaired California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Education section 3030 (d) A pupil has a visual impairment which, even with correction, adversely affects a pupil's educational performance. (for California students only)

RESOURCES

Foundation of Education Second Edition, Volume II, AFB Press

www.cde.ca.gov/re/ph/sm/low_vision.asp

Dictionary of Eye Terminology - Fourth Edition; Barbara Cassin, Melvin L. Rubin, MD, Editor

Program Guidelines for Students for are Visually Impaired, California Department of Education, Sacramento, California

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BIRTH TO FIVE VISION NETWORK
birthtofivevision.org