

# Vision Department

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*Teacher of the Visually Impaired*

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The Mission of the Vision Department is to serve all students ages 3-21 yrs old in the district who qualify as low vision or blind according to the criteria set out by The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Identification of a Visual Impairment follows the following definition and criteria:

## **Visual Impairment/Blindness Definition**

Visual Impairment, including blindness, means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

## **Criteria for Initial Determination of Eligibility**

A child displays a Visual Impairment when:

A. a visual impairment or a progressive vision loss has been diagnosed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist;

B. visual acuity has been determined to be:

1) for visual impairment of 20/70 to 20/200 in the better eye with best correction

by glasses;

2) for blindness of 20/200 or less in the better eye after best correction by glasses or a visual field measuring 20 degrees or less; **and,**

C. the visual impairment adversely affects the child's educational performance.

The district **MUST** have an eye report from an optometrist or ophthalmologist before your child/student can be seen by the Teacher of the Visually Impaired.

### **Vision Screenings**

Vision Screenings will identify concerns but will not necessarily qualify your child/student for services.

### **Questions**

We are always here to talk about problems you see your child/student having in the classroom and will be glad to discuss options with you.

Remember the earlier your child receives the help they need, the better the outcome for them.

Orientation and Mobility services may be provided to those who qualify for Vision services as deemed necessary by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), which is comprised of teachers, professionals, parents, and students (age 14+) setting out Goals and Objectives to best serve your child/student.

### **Concerns**

If you have concerns or wish to see if your child/student qualifies for Vision Services please feel free to contact the Vision Department of Carthage R-9 School District.

### **Contact Information**

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