



## **REFERRAL FOR RELATED SERVICES: ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY**

### **OVERVIEW:**

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) services are provided by qualified / appropriately credentialed personnel to students who are blind or have a visual impairment to enable those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environments in school, home and community.

### **ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES:**

A multi-disciplinary team including an O&M Specialist shall assess a student to determine the impact of the student's visual impairment on his/her orientation to and safe movement within his/her environment. Information relevant to consideration includes a written report of an eye examination by either an ophthalmologist or optometrist documenting the presence of one or more of the following conditions:

- Partially Sighted: The student's visual acuity in the better eye, after the best correction, is between 20/70 and 20/200
- Legally Blind: Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye after best correction with conventional spectacle lenses, or visual acuity better than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the widest diameter of the visual field is no greater than 20 degrees
- Blind: The student's visual impairment is so severe that for education purposes, vision cannot be used as a major channel of learning and the visual impairment, even with correction, adversely affects the individual's education
- Reduced Visual Field to 50 degrees or less in the better eye
- Other ocular pathologies that are considered permanent and irremediable
- Cerebral / Cortical visual impairment
- A degenerative condition that is likely to result in a significant loss of vision in the future

**SERVICES:** Services provided by an Orientation & Mobility Specialist include:

- Specialized Instruction in O&M techniques, enabling students with visual impairments to achieve their maximum capability, travel safely and independently
- Instruction in prerequisite skills foundational to safe and independent travel, such as orientation to the environment and body awareness
- Consultation with classroom teacher(s) and other IEP team members to enable the student to benefit from his/her primary educational placement