



# Training for Blind/Visually Impaired Students

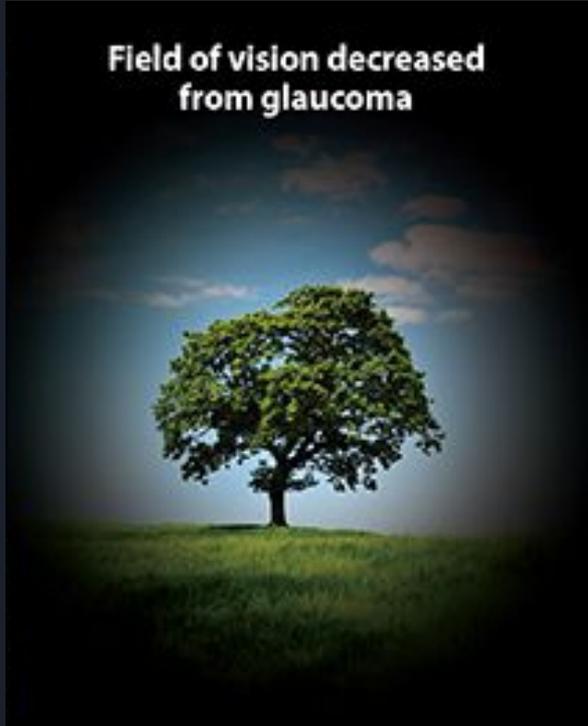


# Fast Facts on Visual Impairment

- Only 18% of people are blind, most can at least perceive light.
- In the United States alone, more than 1.1 million are legally **blind**
- Vision disability is one of the top 10 disabilities among adults 18 years and older and one of the most prevalent disabling conditions among children.
- Approximately 12 million people 40 years and over in the United States have vision impairment, including 1 million who are blind, 3 million who have vision impairment after correction, and 8 million who have vision impairment due to uncorrected refractive error.

\*Information from the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)

# *What is glaucoma?*



- Caused by pressure in the eye, thus damaging the optic nerve and causing irreversible loss of vision around the edge of the eye
- Characterized by darkness around the edges, with vision in the center circle

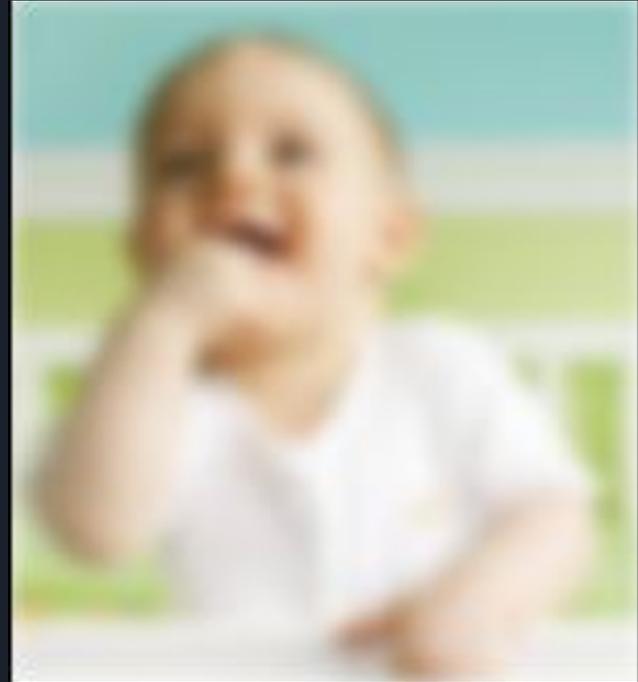
# *What is diabetic retinopathy?*



- Caused by breakage of tiny blood vessels in the retina due to high blood sugar, usually as a result of diabetes
- Characterized by cloudy or blurry vision, dark patches, difficulty seeing at night, or “floaters” in vision

# *What are cataracts?*

- Usually a result of aging; Caused by protein deterioration and clumping in the lens of the eye; when the proteins clump together, this causes cloudiness
- Characterized by opaque areas in the on the eye's lens that cloud vision



# *What is macular degeneration?*

- Caused by damage to the macula, a small area in the center of the retina at the back of the eye essential to central vision
- Characterized by a dark blurred area or blank spot in the center of the line of sight; this blurred area or blank spot will grow as macular degeneration develops



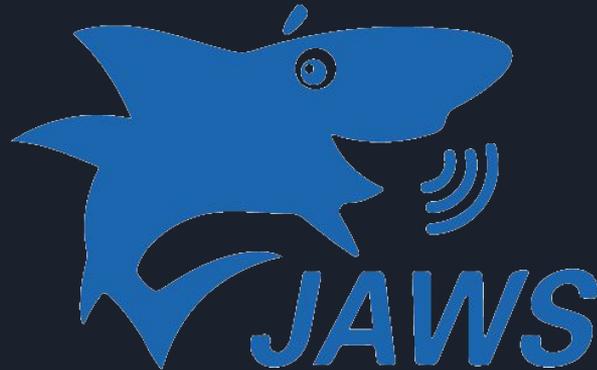
# *What is retinitis pigmentosa?*

- This is a rare genetic disease that causes deterioration of light-sensing cells in the retina
- Characterized by loss of night vision, peripheral vision, and visual sharpness; tunnel vision, and may lead to total blindness



What assistive technology do we provide for students who are blind or visually impaired?

ZoomText





# How should we interact with students who are blind or visually impaired?

- **Introductions**

- Introduce yourself by stating your name when you meet/greet the student
- Provide an introduction of other people who are interacting with the student as well

- **Address the student directly**

- Call the student's name when you are about to address them; this is like making eye contact with a sighted person



# How should we interact with students who are blind or visually impaired? (Continued)

- **Be specific**

- Words like “here” and “there” are too general to be descriptive
- For example, “Make a slight left turn in 5 feet” as opposed to “Turn left right here”
- Hand gestures will likely not be helpful for students who are blind or who are visually impaired



## How should we interact with students who are blind or visually impaired? (Continued)

- **Tell the student what you're doing**
  - Try not to disappear while you are interacting with the student, even if you are just going to grab something really quickly
  - Tell the student when you leave to do something
  - For example, if you are grabbing something from the printer for the student, let them know that you are going to the printer and that you will be back in a moment
- **Don't assume that the student needs help - ask first!**