

Parent/Caregiver Interview
For Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Caregiver Name: _____

Parent e-mail: _____ Phone/Cell: _____

Medical Information/History

What is your understanding of your child's visual impairment and how it affects his/her functioning? _____

Has your child's vision changed in any ways? _____

Has your child had any eye surgeries? _____

When was your child's last eye exam? _____

Name of eye doctor _____

Does your child have a seizure history? Yes ___ No ___ If so, what causes it? _____

Is your child taking any medication? Yes ___ No ___ If so, what? _____

Visual Response

Do you notice any differences in your child's vision on different days or different times of the day? _____

If your child has been prescribed glasses, does your child wear them? Yes ___ No ___ Do the glasses appear to help your child see better? _____

Does your child move his/her glasses forward on the nose or look over then glasses often? _____

How long has your child had his/her present pair of glasses? _____

If your child has been prescribed low vision devices, what are they and how does he/she use them? _____

Describe how your child explores new objects (visually, tactually, auditory, or a combination). _____

What kinds of things does your child appear to see?

- Your face.....Yes___ No ___ If so, from what distance? _____
- Favorite toys.....Yes___ No ___ If so, from what distance? _____
- An object or action during a favorite game.....Yes___ No ___ If so, from what distance? _____
- Food or drink.....Yes___ No ___ If so, from what distance? _____
- An adult moving across the room.....Yes___ No ___ If so, from what distance? _____
- TV, windows, lights off or on.....Yes___ No ___ If so, from what distance? _____

What types of objects does your child reach for? Please describe this. _____

What is the smallest object you've seen your child try to pick up? _____

Does your child recognize people when they first enter a room without making any sound? How far away are they? _____

Do you notice your child bringing things closer to look at them? Yes ___ No ___ How close? _____

How close does your child generally hold small objects? _____

What kinds of things does your child appear not to see, or have difficulty seeing? _____

What does your child say or do that tells you he/she is having trouble seeing? _____

Are there times your child sees better than others? Yes ___ No ___ If so, when? _____

If your child has been diagnosed as being blind, what do you think that he/she sees? _____

Do you feel that some areas of your child's visual field are better than others? _____

Does your child experience visual fatigue? _____

Does your child have access to a computer at home? Yes ___ No ___ Describe activities the computer is used for, problems encountered, and how far away your child is from the screen. _____

When riding in the car, is your child interested in looking out the window, or does your child usually do other things? _____

Does your child seem to look more at still or moving objects? _____

Describe your child's coloring, drawing, cutting, writing: _____

Response to Lighting

What kind of lighting is best for your child? _____

Is your child sensitive to bright lights? _____

Does your child like to look at room lights or at windows for a relatively long time? _____

Does glare from shiny surfaces bother your child? _____

During Activities of Daily Living

How does your child use his/her vision during mealtimes? _____

Does your child have trouble finding food or knowing what's on the plate? _____

Does your child exhibit age-appropriate skills in daily living activities and chores (eating, dressing, personal hygiene, grooming, etc.)? Yes ___ No ___ Describe _____

How does your child locate things that he/she drops on the floor? _____

During Social Interactions

How does your child use his/her vision to interact with adult and siblings/peers? _____

During Play & Leisure

What are your child's favorite toys? How does your child play with them? _____

What are your child's favorite activities? _____

Does your child like to play computer or video games? _____

Does your child like to look at or read books? _____

What size pictures and font does he/she enjoy reading/looking at? _____

What are your child's favorite colors? _____

Mobility & Travel

Does your child ever have problems getting around in the dark? Yes___ No ___ Explain _____

Does your child have problems with bright light? Yes___ No ___ Explain _____

How does your child adjust to different lighting? _____

Is your child more hesitant to explore or move about in unfamiliar places? Please explain. _____

Does your child have trouble getting around in unfamiliar environments? Yes___ No ___ Explain _____

Does your child have trouble traveling independently outdoors? Yes___ No ___ Explain _____

How does your child use his/her vision to move through the home? Does your child appear to have any difficulty moving about the house? _____

How does your child use his/her vision to move through the yard/playground? _____

Please describe your child's outdoor play activities: _____

How does your child use his/her vision to move on steps/curbs? _____

Miscellaneous

Some children with visual impairments hold their hands near or against their eyes in unusual ways (waving a hand in front of one or both eyes, pressing a hand against an eye). Have you noticed your child doing anything like this? _____

Does your child appear to tilt his/her head in unusual ways to look at things? _____

What type of educational or other services is your child now receiving? _____

Does your child have career goals? Yes ____ No ____ Describe: _____

What are your major concerns about your child's vision? _____

Describe settings or activities of concern in which the teacher of the visually impaired should observe your child? _____

Additional Notes (Comments, Questions, or Concerns)
