



Glossary of commonly used Vision Services terms

Accommodation - Ability of the lens to adjust its shape in order to produce a clear image, in the back of the eye, on the retina.

Achromatopsia - Color blindness.

Acuity - Measure of detail and shape recognition vision.

Amblyopia - Dimness of vision without any apparent impairment or disease.

Aniridia - Incomplete formation of iris.

Anophthalmia - Absence of eyeball.

Aphakic - Absence of the lens of the eye.

Astigmatism - Optical distortion usually caused by irregular corneal curvature which prevents a clear focus of light at any point on the back of the eye.

Blepharitis - Inflammation of the eyelid.

Blindness - Lack of perceivable light perception.

Cataract - Cloudiness of the lens.

Coloboma - Cleft or defect in the pupil of the eye.

Conjunctivitis - Inflammation of the transparent membrane lining the inner or outer surface of the eyelid.

Corneal opacification - Scarring or deterioration of the cornea which causes degrees of cloudiness of the cornea.

Diplopia - Double vision

Divergence - Turning outward of both eyes.

Esotropia - Observable turning inward of one or both eyes.

Exotropia - Observable turning outward of one or both eyes.

Glaucoma - Disease associated with excessive pressure within the anterior chamber of the eye.

Hemanopsia - Impaired vision in half of the visual field.

Hyperopia - Farsightedness. Individuals have better near point vision.

Legal Blindness - A visual acuity that is 20/200 to 20/400, or visual fields of 20 degrees or less.

Low Vision - A visual acuity that is between 20/70 to 20/160 and cannot be corrected.

LP - Abbreviation used to denote light perception or the ability to distinguish light from dark.

LPP - Abbreviation used to denote light projection or the ability to perceive and localize light.

Microphthalmia - a smaller than normal eye.

Myopia Nearsightedness. Individuals have poor distance vision.

NLP - Abbreviation used to denote no perceivable light perception or the inability to distinguish light from dark.

Nystagmus - Involuntary, regular, rapid movement of the eye.

O.D. - Abbreviation used by ophthalmologists to indicate the right eye.

Optic Nerve atrophy - Deterioration of the optic nerve interfering with transmission of visual information from the retina to the brain.

Optic Nerve hypoplasia - Small underdeveloped optic nerve.

Ophthalmologist - An M.D. licensed to practice medicine who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and defects of the eye.

Optometrist - A licensed non-medical practitioner who measures refractive errors and eye muscle disturbances and prescribes glasses, low vision aids and exercises.

O.S. - Abbreviation used by ophthalmologists to indicate the left eye.

O.U. - Abbreviation used by ophthalmologists to indicate both eyes.

Partially Sighted - Visual impairment that adversely affects a student's educational performance even when corrected to the best extent possible.

Peter's Anomaly - A genetic disorder in which the normally clear cornea is hazy and white.

Photophobia - Light sensitivity.

Ptosis - A droopy eyelid.

Refractive Error - A defect in the eye that prevents light waves from finding a direct focus on the retina.

Retinal Detachment - Separation of the retina from the underlying layers of the eye.

Retrolental Fibroplasia - A destructive vascular and fibrous overgrowth of the retina occurring in premature infants placed in environments of high concentration of oxygen.

Strabismus - Inability of both eyes to look directly at an object at the same time.