

Approximately one out of every three students at The Overbrook Educational Center has a vision impairment or is blind. Eligibility for vision services at OEC require that a student has a vision impairment which, even with correction, adversely impacts their educational performance.

Students with vision loss at OEC vary widely in their ability levels, degree of vision impairments and some may have accompanying disabilities. At OEC we believe that all students should participate fully in all academic and nonacademic activities.

At OEC we have three learning environments for our vision students. Some of our vision students learn in self-contained vision classrooms where they receive instruction from Teachers of the Visually Impaired. Others are mainstreamed (part-time) or included (full-time) into regular education classrooms. Supports are provided depending on the student's level of need. Some of our students with vision loss are in our new Life Skills classrooms with Life Skills teachers.

One of the most important aspects of educating our students with vision loss and blindness is the IEP, (Individual Education Plan). This is a comprehensive, one-year plan to educate a student. It is specifically designed for an individual student and their special needs. The IEP team includes the classroom teacher and any staff member that works directly with that student. Most importantly, it includes the parent, who knows the child best of all. Parents are essential to the IEP team, ensuring that their child gets to school every day, having had a good night's sleep and that their homework is completed. The parents know their child's strengths and challenges and the dream they have for their future. Parents are essential for a well implemented IEP.