

## **Five Effective Instructional Strategies: Students with Visual Impairment and Blindness in the Classroom**

### **What are instructional strategies?**

Instructional strategies refer to the learning techniques a teacher uses to help students learn or gain a better understanding of the course material (Persaud, 2020).

#### **1. Provide Reading and Writing Assistive Technologies:**

Students with visual impairment will need assistive technology to help them complete reading and writing assignments. These technologies can include dark or bold paper for writing assignments. Visually impaired students should also have speech to text software available to them in the classroom. Blind students can benefit from braille texts or the use of an electronic note taker that transcribes voice to braille documents.

#### **2. Extra Time:**

Students with visual impairment should be given extra time to complete assignments. Reading, writing, and mathematical calculation can cause eye fatigue of students with visual impairment. Giving these students extra time on assignments that require them to use their eyes can help reduce the strain on their eyes.

#### **3. Speak Clearly:**

People with visual impairment and blindness rely on their other senses, particularly hearing. It is important for teachers to speak clearly to their class so that those students with visual impairment and blindness are able to better understand the educational content.

#### **4. Use Strategic Seating:**

Students with visual impairment can find other students who are noisy to be a huge distraction. Use strategic seating during class time and group work, to keep hearing impaired students near their quieter peers.

#### **5. Read Tests Aloud:**

Students with visual impairment and blindness can benefit from having an accommodations plan that allows for an instructor or educational aid to read test questions aloud. There are cases when assistive technology may not be able to have text-to-speech functions for reading tests, and having a person do so can insure equitable instruction.

### **References**

Gargiulo, R. M., & Bouck, E. C. (2018). Chapter 5: Assistive Technology. In *Special education in contemporary society: an introduction to exceptionality* (pp. 135–158). SAGE Publications, Inc.