Introduction
The purpose of the Guidelines for the Specialized Assessment of Students with Visual Impairments is to:

- Review types of assessments and provide sample assessment forms for an initial evaluation or three-year reevaluation to support the eligibility determination of special education services for students with visual impairments. See the Evaluation Consent Form (N1A).
- Help ensure a common understanding of the purpose and complexity of conducting specialized assessments of students with visual impairments.
- Assist Teams in designing instruction and supports for students with visual impairments to ensure access to the general curriculum and life of the school.
- Provide resources to help general and special educators and related service providers meet the unique needs of students with visual impairments and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

Note: This guide is intended to address the evaluation of students with vision loss and the impact of this loss on their education and their ability to participate in the life of the school. Additional specialized assessments will be needed for students with deaf-blindness or other disabilities.

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1 Massachusetts Special Education Regulations are found at 603 CMR 28.00. Federal regulations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are found at 34 CFR 300. Evaluation of students with disabilities is addressed in state regulations at 603 CMR 28.04 and 28.05(2)(b), and in federal regulations at 34 CFR 300.301 et seq.

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