8. **Orientation and Mobility Assessment (O & M)** (see Appendix B, Section J)

8.1 **Purpose**
An O & M assessment evaluates how safely and independently students with visual impairments are able to navigate in a variety of environments. An orientation and mobility assessment evaluates the student’s body image, motor coordination skills, visual and listening abilities, understanding of environmental concepts, analysis of traffic controls, street crossing skills, use of public transportation, use of low vision devices, and/or the potential need for an adaptive mobility device or a long cane. An orientation and mobility assessment is conducted in the school, home, and community, and in both familiar and unfamiliar environments.

An O & M assessment is recommended for all students with visual impairments. Vision loss can have a significant impact on an individual’s ability to navigate safely and independently.

8.2 **Completing the Assessment**
A Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) conducts an orientation and mobility evaluation as a recommended assessment under the “Assessment of All Areas Related to Suspected Disability(ies)” section of the Evaluation Consent Form (N1A).