**Eye Conditions Snippet**

**Condition Name:** Albinism

**Description:** Albinism is a hereditary condition. There are different types, Oculocutaneous Albinism of that causes a lack of pigmentation in the hair, skin and eyes, Ocular Albinism affects only the eyes. The lack of pigment in the iris allows too much light to fall on the retina causing glare. Abnormalities may also occur in the retina, this in turn affects the formation of the nerve pathways from the eyes to the brain, which results in decreased visual acuity.

**Effects on Vision:** Albinism is a non-progressive condition and so as the individual ages it will not. Albinism can cause Photophobia (an aversion to bright light) A student may notice their vision is worse in bright light and better in dim light (especially central vision). Along with light sensitivity the student may also have astigmatism, lowered visual acuity and nystagmus (side to side rhythmic eye movement).

**Educational implications:** Environmental concerns such as glare from the windows and lights in a classroom must be addressed since they may cause sensitivity and pain. It is important to consider magnification aids and enhanced print for student such as larger font size and making text bold. Also teachers should consider minimizing visual clutter on maps and other diagrams. The role of the orientation and mobility instructor is important in helping to familiarize the student with new areas particularly those which are subject to changing light.