**Eye Conditions Snippet**

**Condition Name:** Bardet-Biel Syndrome

**Description:** Bardet-Biel Syndrome is a genetically inherited combination of conditions that can affect vision, learning difficulties, blood pressure and kidney function. It can also cause the growth of extra fingers and can delay or eliminate puberty. The associated eye condition is retinitis pigmentosa (RP), which is a problem with the rod and cone photoreceptors in the retina. Most commonly the cells controlling the rods are impaired although it can also affect the cells controlling the cones. RP is a degenerative condition. It progresses slowly and may lead to total blindness in adulthood.

**Effects on Vision:** If the rods are affected then there will be deceased vision in low light or at night. Peripheral vision will also be leading to tunnel vision. If the cones are affected there will be a loss of central vision and most colours will not seem bright. Depending on the severity and progression of the damage to these photoreceptors, vision in students may be slightly or significantly impaired. Nystagmus is often associated with Retinitis Pigmentosa.

**Educational implications:** About 50% of persons will have developmental delays ranging from mild to severe. Mobility may be affected due to peripheral vision loss. Environmental considerations regarding lighting and preferential seating may also be considered. If the cones are not affected and acuity is not an issue then magnification and low vision aids may not be required.