**Eye Conditions Snippet**

**Condition Name:** Coloboma

**Description:** A non-progressive defect in any part of the eye ranging from the eyelid to the optic nerve or retina present at birth. It commonly looks like a notch and can affect one or both eyes. A coloboma is caused by abnormal development of the eyes during pregnancy.

**Effects on Vision:** A coloboma can affect any structures in the eye. The effect is dependent on the size and position of the coloboma. If a coloboma develops near the back of the eye there is a greater likelihood of a visual impairment. If the retina is affected the student may have difficulties with central vision. Optic disc and retinal colobmas may result in retinal detachment later in life. There is no treatment for coloboma at present.

**Educational implications:** Students with colobomas present in both eyes will be visually impaired but the degree and severity of the visual impairment will vary. It is important to note that students may experience photophobia (which is sensitivity to bright lights). Also increased font, reduced visual clutter and visual aids for magnification may be required by the student.