Condition Name: Hemianopsia

Description: Is a reduction in vision in one half of the visual field. Hemianopsia, may be caused by various medical conditions, such as a tumor, stroke or trauma which may involve a brain injury. Hemianopsia will vary from patient to patient and may result in absolute loss on one side or partial reduction of vision. Homonymous hemianopsia affects the right halves or the left halves of the visual fields of both eyes. Heteronymous hemianopsia is a loss of vision in either both nasal halves.

Effects on Vision: It may affect either the right or left side of the visual field and it can be permanent. Hemianopsia can produce various effects, from minor to severe. For example, a person may be able to see only to one side when looking ahead, or objects that the person sees may differ in clarity or brightness. Such visual impairment can make it difficult to perform daily tasks, from reading to crossing streets. There is no specific treatment for hemianopsia.

Educational implications: Students may benefit from the use of magnifiers or special prism lenses. It is recommended that the student work with a teacher of the visually impaired to provide adaptations in the classroom and in Physical Education. It is important to consider preferential seating to allow the student maximum viewing of the classroom. An Orientation and Mobility
specialist may help the student navigate unfamiliar environments safely.