**Condition Name:** Toxoplasmosis

**Description:** Toxoplasmosis is caused by an infection from a microscopic parasite that can live inside the cells of humans and animals. It is transmitted through eating raw or undercooked meat and vegetables, coming into contact with cat feces and transfer from mother to infant while pregnant. Often, infected adults do not show any signs or symptoms. Toxoplasmosis is the most common infective cause of childhood visual impairment in developed countries.

**Effects on Vision:** If a student is born with toxoplasmosis, it may have affected the student’s development. Toxoplasmosis can cause inflammation of the retina, cataracts, optic atrophy and Micophthalmos (small eyes). These conditions are all associated with vision difficulties since they cause a loss of visual acuity and visual fields. Antibiotics and surgery may be performed to help correct a number of symptoms, but each case is unique and the outcomes will vary.

**Educational implications:** A student infected by toxoplasmosis may need a variety of vision supports and services, but it is dependent upon the area and severity of the affected vision.