Issues: Inclusion, Standardised testing

Ferrell, K (2007) Issues in the Field of Blindness and Low-Vision <http://nclid.unco.edu/joomla> Retrieved July 2011

All children have a right to education. Families may choose from a range of settings including specialized settings, mainstream local schools, satellite classes, home schooling. The issue is found in the gap between inclusion and mainstreaming.

Choosing the education setting for a learner is based on:

“(a) each student's individual and unique needs,

(b) how an individual's assessed needs can best be met, and

(c) the educational setting where identified needs can be met.” (Ferrell 2007:2)

Placement depends on the settings ability to provide equal access to:

* Curriculum,
* Social life of the school,
* And academic success.

Inclusion and access are more than simply ensuring adaptive technologies and literacies and supports are provided. True inclusion goes further to examine values, attitudes and mind sets. In this way teaching practice is also examined to reveal areas where having vision is viewed as a standard. An example of this is found in many standardized tests where concepts are examined that are not part of a blind child’s experience.