

## **Tips FOR Parents FROM Parents**

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- Contact teachers before the first day of school and share the webinar link called “How We See”. Don’t forget to include not only the classroom teachers, but also the PE teacher, the music teacher and the media center teacher.
- Reinforce with my student that they must be their own advocate.
- Meet with the group of teachers including the TVI and share the information on albinism, descriptions of visual aids, stereotypes, how our student sees and signs of struggling or eye fatigue.
- Visit each classroom to discuss lighting and seating and where information will be presented so our student knows where to focus her attention.
- Establish routines for storing and retrieving school supplies, sunglasses, devices and sunscreen so my student will likely reach for them.
- Explain IEP jargon to the teachers and create an open line of positive communication for questions and concerns.
- Teach our student to be open about albinism. Teach our student definitions for nystagmus, photophobia, retina and pigment and their relation to albinism.
- Role-play to ensure our student can give a real answer, a “flip” answer, and a vague answer as needed. This is especially helpful in social situations and if the class has a substitute who may not know your student.
- Explore the room noting the location of things like Kleenex, the pencil sharpener, assignment trays, hall passes and cubbies.
- Especially in upper grades – middle and high school – walk to all of the rooms in order to familiarize and memorize the route for classes.
- In college, speak with each professor on the first day of class and request notes in advance. Also register with the Disability Resource Center to receive testing accommodations.

- When I can I try to volunteer for school activities. It gives me the opportunity to build relationships with the teachers. During these times of an active classroom or assembly, the teacher may think of questions to ask you about how they can support your child during certain classroom/school activities.
- Work with your IEP team to include consultation time for your TVI to work with the classroom teachers, especially at the beginning of the year. This consultation time can be used to review classroom accommodations and support the classroom teachers with questions they may have about their student's needs.