

LEARNING ALL ABOUT

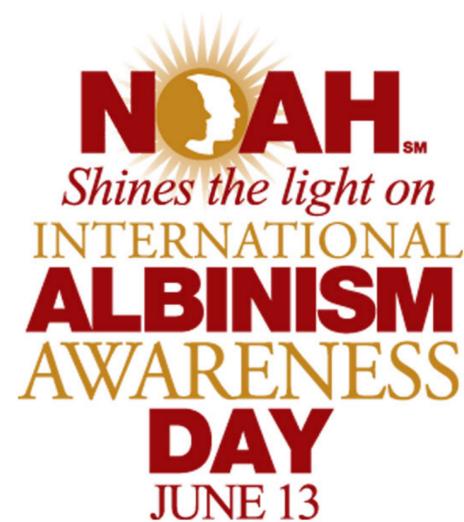
Albinism in Schools



A group of inherited disorders where there is either no or almost no production of the pigment melanin. The lack of melanin can affect skin, hair and eye color as well as the development of optic nerves.

Symptoms & Areas of Need

- Skin and hair color may be very light compared to family members without Albinism
 - people with albinism have skin that is very sensitive to light and sun exposure. Sunburns can increase the risk of developing skin cancer
- Eye color can range from light blue to brown, while irises might appear almost translucent due to inability to block light from entering the eye
- Vision complications
 - can impact learning, employment and the ability to drive



Long term outcomes

Increased risk of getting skin cancer



Causes, Incidence & IDEA

Albinism is typically caused by mutations in one of several genes and most types are inherited.

global incidence 1:20,000

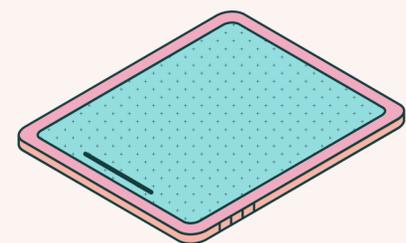
Visual Impairment including blindness, Other Health Impairment, or Multiple Disabilities

Role of School Psychologists

- Spreading awareness and educating teachers, administrators and other students
- Implementing a universal antibullying intervention
- providing necessary support services
- advocating for students if teachers don't follow the IEP
- Keeping extra sunscreen and sunglasses as well as clean hats, long sleeve tops and bottoms available in case of emergency



Assessment, Interventions and Treatments



- Make sure to understand the child's level of visual acuity.
- iPad assessments may be easier for the child
- Test in a room without windows or with the blinds drawn
- There are many accommodations and modifications that can be made to school environments
- Medical Treatment for children with Albinism typically focuses on protecting skin and eyes

Resources

- National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation
 - The CARE project
 - The SchoolKit
- Albinism friends
- A few more steps

