Blind / Visually Impaired: Talking Points

Identification

- Minnesota Teacher of Special Education, Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired (TBVI) License Requirements: https://bit.ly/2XzNga3

Evaluation

- Learning Media Assessment (LMA): http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/overview-learning-media-assessment
- Orientation and Mobility Resource: https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/cat/bvi/

Program Planning

- Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired Legislative Report: https://bit.ly/2KEAThy
- Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC): http://www.tsbvi.edu/seehear/winter01/core.htm
- Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Orientation and Mobility Q & A: https://bit.ly/QgLUG
- TBVI and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) “Welcome Packet”: Unified English Braille (UEB) Resources, Minnesota Specific


Other Activities

- Tuition Support for Licensure in BVI through the low incidence grant, $200 per credit for core courses and practicum: https://bit.ly/32ajc3v
- Statewide Vision Community of Practice meets four times a year (three are accessible via long distance connection)
- Minnesota Teachers of the Blind/Visually Impaired Electronic Mailing List: http://mailmanlists.us/mailman/listinfo/mn.bvi
• [Minnesota Orientation and Mobility Specialists (MOMS) Electronic Mailing List](http://mailmanlists.us/mailman/listinfo/mn.moms)
• [Minnesota Braillists Electronic Mailing List](http://mailmanlists.us/mailman/listinfo/mn.braillists)
• [MDE Recruitment and Retention](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/recr/index.htm)
• [Minnesota Mentorship Program](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/recr/index.htm)

### Additional Resources

• [Minnesota State Academy for the Blind](http://msab.msa.state.mn.us/)

### Advocacy Agencies

• [Minnesota Division on Vision Impairments MDVI Newsletters](https://sites.google.com/site/tbviupdates/mdvi-newsletters)
• [American Council of the Blind of Minnesota](http://www.acb.org/minnesota/)
• [National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota](http://nfbmn.org/)
• [PACER Center](http://www.pacer.org/)

### Administrators "Need to Know" for BVI

• BVI Program Planning Resources included in the addendum of the [2018 Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired Legislative Report](https://bit.ly/2xAACbc)
• There are currently no Minnesota Institutes of Higher Education offering licensure programs in Blind/Visually Impaired or Orientation and Mobility. [Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board Resources](https://mn.gov/pelsb/)
• Districts are responsible for providing [accessible educational materials (AEM)](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/mat/004149) to all students in a timely manner.
• Participating districts can request audio and braille transcription services through the State Services for the Blind (SSB) Communications Center as indicated in the annual SPED assurances. The MDE Interagency Agreement for transcription does not cover non-published material (all requests for braille transcription must have an ISBN number.)
• Districts should follow the “Guidance for Purchases of Learning Materials” for all new material procurements: [https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/mat/004148](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/mat/004148)
• [Texas School for the Blind / Visually Impaired Administrators Toolbox](http://www.tsbvi.edu/tb)
VI Childcount Data

- MDE “BVI Welcome Packet” for TBVI and COMS in Minnesota: https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/cat/bvi/057428

MDE Specialist:

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Reference Websites:

Minnesota Department of Education BVI: https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/cat/bvi/