

## Blind / Visually Impaired: Talking Points

### Identification

- [Minnesota Eligibility Requirements: Visually Impaired](https://bitly.im/P5JJN): <https://bitly.im/P5JJN>
- [Explanation of Blind/Visually Impaired \(BVI\) Eligibility](https://bitly.im/PCiwq): <https://bitly.im/PCiwq>
- Minnesota Teacher of Special Education, [Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired \(TBVI\) License Requirements](https://bit.ly/2XzNga3): <https://bit.ly/2XzNga3>

### Evaluation

- [Steps in a Functional Vision Evaluation](https://bitly.im/PCiwq): <https://bitly.im/PCiwq>
- [Learning Media Assessment \(LMA\)](http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/overview-learning-media-assessment): <http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/overview-learning-media-assessment>
- [Orientation and Mobility Resource](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/cat/bvi/): <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/cat/bvi/>

### Program Planning

- [Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired](https://bit.ly/2KEAThy) Legislative Report: <https://bit.ly/2KEAThy>
- [Expanded Core Curriculum \(ECC\)](http://www.tsbvi.edu/seehear/winter01/core.htm): <http://www.tsbvi.edu/seehear/winter01/core.htm>
- [State Services for the Blind \(SSB\) Higher Education Transition Resources](https://bit.ly/2KGC1RE): <https://bit.ly/2KGC1RE>
- [Minnesota Department of Education \(MDE\) Orientation and Mobility Q & A](https://bitly.im/QgLUG): <https://bitly.im/QgLUG>
- [TBVI and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist \(COMS\) "Welcome Packet"](#): Unified English Braille (UEB) Resources, Minnesota Specific

Procedures posted on the BVI electronic list for all Minnesota TBVI: <https://bitly.im/PCiwq>

### Other Activities

- [Tuition Support for Licensure](https://bit.ly/32ajc3v) 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): <http://mailmanlists.us/mailman/listinfo/mn.bvi>

- [Minnesota Orientation and Mobility Specialists \(MOMS\) Electronic Mailing List](http://mailmanlists.us/mailman/listinfo/mn.moms):  
http://mailmanlists.us/mailman/listinfo/mn.moms
- [Minnesota Brailists Electronic Mailing List](http://mailmanlists.us/mailman/listinfo/mn.brailists):  
http://mailmanlists.us/mailman/listinfo/mn.brailists
- [MDE Recruitment and Retention](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/recr/index.htm): https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/recr/index.htm
- [Minnesota Mentorship Program](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/recr/index.htm): https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/recr/index.htm

## Additional Resources

- [Minnesota State Academy for the Blind](http://msab.msa.state.mn.us/): http://msab.msa.state.mn.us/
- [Minnesota Resource Libraries](https://bit.ly/2XwmAHi): https://bit.ly/2XwmAHi

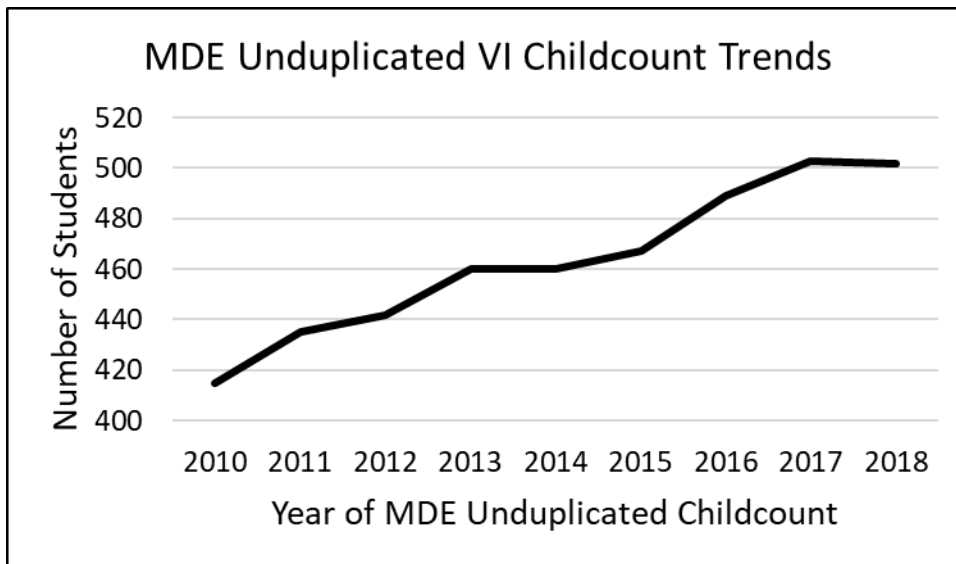
## Advocacy Agencies

- Minnesota Division on Vision Impairments [MDVI Newsletters](https://sites.google.com/site/tbviupdates/mdvi-newsletters):  
https://sites.google.com/site/tbviupdates/mdvi-newsletters
- [American Council of the Blind of Minnesota](http://www.acb.org/minnesota/): http://www.acb.org/minnesota/
- [National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota](http://nfbmn.org/): http://nfbmn.org/
- [PACER Center](http://www.pacer.org/): 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): 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/): https://mn.gov/pelsb/
- MDE ["BVI Welcome Packet"](https://bit.ly/2M9gcjm) for TBVI and COMS in Minnesota: https://bit.ly/2M9gcjm
- 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: https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/mat/004149
- 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"](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/mat/004148) for all new material procurements: https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/mat/004148
- [Texas School for the Blind / Visually Impaired Administrators Toolbox](http://www.tsbvi.edu/tb): http://www.tsbvi.edu/tb

## VI Childcount Data



Year	VI Count
2010	415
2011	435
2012	442
2013	460
2014	460
2015	467
2016	489
2017	503
2018	502

- MDE ["BVI Welcome Packet"](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/cat/bvi/057428) 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/): <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/cat/bvi/>