New Mexico School for the Blind & Visually Impaired can help your district meet the specialized needs of your students!

The ultimate goal of education for all students is a quality of life where individuals find passion and fulfillment in their work, families and friendships. Education is dependent on one’s ability to read and to develop independence across all areas of life. Research shows that emergent readers need 10-15 hours of instruction weekly (Koenig and Holbrook, 2000). Additionally, compensatory blindness skills are needed to prepare students for the world of work. The following programs at NMSBVI are designed to support your district’s efforts to meet the many needs of your students who are blind or visually impaired:

- Residential Campus Placement
- Short-Term Stays on Our Residential Campus
- Education for Licensure as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired
- Visual Impairment Assessments
- Clinical Low Vision Evaluations
- Technology Equipment Loans
- Statewide Training Sessions
- Mentorship for New TVIs
**Placement on the Residential Campus**
Some skills can only be taught over a period of time (e.g., Braille, life skills) and necessitate placement on the residential campus for an extended stay. Instruction on the residential campus includes:

- Emphasis on the Expanded Core Curriculum: O&M, technology, recreation & leisure, independent living, social skills, Braille, self determination, career education, sensory efficiency skills.
- Individualized instruction that will prepare the student for educational success in their home school district or in post-educational settings.
- Length of placement is dependent upon IEP team decision.
- Contact Julie Johnson, (575) 439-4432 / email jjohnson@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

**Short-Term Stays on Residential Campus**
Some students with visual impairments have identified needs for VI specific skills that are difficult to meet in the itinerant based model but do not need a long-term placement on NMSBVI campus. Short term stays:

- Will focus intensely on one or two VI specific skills that can be met within a short period of time.
- Will have at least two periods a day to work on core content assignments from the district.
- Will have an abbreviated acceptance process once district TVI/O&M staff have identified one or two VI specific skills for intense focus.
- Contact Julie Johnson, (575) 439-4432 / email jjohnson@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

**Instructional Resource Center**
The IRC serves as a statewide lending resource for APH Quota Fund Braille and large print textbooks, as well as other specialized equipment used by students with visual impairments.

- Contact Mary Vaughn, (575) 439-4438 / email maryvaughn@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

**Assessments Related to Visual Impairments**
NMSBVI staff can help with functional vision/learning media assessments & orientation & mobility evaluations.

- Contact Julie Johnson, (575) 439-4432 / email jjohnson@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

**Clinical Low Vision Evaluations for Students with Limited Vision**
NMSBVI provides no cost low vision evaluations at various times and locations across the state.

- Evaluations include prescriptive lenses and adaptive low vision devices.
- Contact Marjorie Rhodes, (505)350-3292 / email MarjorieRhodes@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

**Technology Equipment Loan**
A lending library is available to districts with students who need a trial of low vision technology prior to the district’s purchase of the equipment.

- Contact Fatima Portugal, (505) 377-0413 / email carmelporugal@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

**Statewide Trainings**
A variety of vision specific training is available throughout the school year for school personnel interested in blindness education. Please see our school’s website at www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

**Mentorships for New TVIs**
For information regarding a free mentorship program for your Teacher of the Visually Impaired, please contact Julie Johnson, (575) 439-4432 / email jjohnson@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

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