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/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

New Mexico School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Alamogordo • Albuquerque • Statewide Outreach
1-800-437-3505 • www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us
Placement on the Residential Campus
Some skills can only be taught over a period of time (ex. 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 Danette Fuller, 575-439-4432.

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 Ron Later, 575-439-4478.

Education for Licensure of TVIs
Education for a teacher to become licensed as teacher for the visually impaired – NMSBVI collaborates with New Mexico State University to offer a Masters Level Program to provide licensure as a teacher for the visually impaired.
• The tuition for the two year on-line program is paid by NMSBVI.
• Contact Linda Lyle, 575-439-4413.

Assessments Related to Visual Impairments
NMSBVI staff can help with functional vision/learning media assessments and orientation & mobility evaluations.
• Contact Valerie Tiensvold, 505-859-0430; or Danette Fuller, 575-430-7806.

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 Susan Stokes, 505-859-0215.

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 Margaret Bateman, 505-859-1309.

Statewide Trainings
A variety of vision specific training is available throughout the school year for school personnel interested in blindness education. Please see our 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 Linda Lyle at 575-439-4413.