



Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach Programs

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Introduction to the T-TESS Companion for VI Professionals: Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI)

This document is intended to be used as a companion to the T-TESS (or other district appraisal system) and provides information specific to professionals working with students with visual impairments. It is assumed that administrators will have the same expectations for excellence for professionals in visual impairments as other educators regardless of the instructional setting, existing disabilities and/or age of the student.

TVIs work with students from birth through 21 who are blind or visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities and students who are deafblind. TVIs may travel to many campuses to deliver services.

Students have been identified through a functional vision evaluation and learning media assessment as needing VI instruction with a TVI. The ultimate goal of VI programming is to assure that students have the compensatory skills to access the general curriculum, as well as skills related to the expanded core curriculum (ECC).

Instruction in the areas of the ECC may include

- Assistive technology
- Career education
- Independent living skills
- Recreation and leisure
- Sensory efficiency
- Social interaction skills
- Compensatory skills
- Self determination
- Orientation & Mobility

Pre-conference

A pre-conference is highly recommended to help guide the observation. Pre-conference topics could include a review of the following topics specifically related to the student being observed:

- Cognitive functioning and communication level
- Degree of vision and/or hearing loss and presence of additional disabilities if applicable
- Behavioral strategies
- VI goals/objectives
- Collaboration with other individuals
- Active learning strategies and/or strategies specific to students who are deafblind.

Legal references related to students with visual impairments to support this document include the following:

- Educating Students with Visual Impairments in Texas: Guidelines and Standards:
<http://www.tsbvi.edu/resources-weblinks/1147-2015-guidelines-and-standards>
- TEC Code 30.002: <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/SOTWDocs/ED/htm/ED.30.htm>
- ECC Information: <http://www.tsbvi.edu/what-is-the-expanded-core-curriculum-ecc>