

GROW YOUR OWN VI TEACHER



More Information

VI and O&M

Preparation Newsletter:

<http://www.tsbvi.edu/how-do-i-become-a-vi-professional>

Texas Tech University:

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/sowell/index.php>

Stephen F. Austin

University: [http://](http://www2.sfasu.edu/visual-impairment)

www2.sfasu.edu/visual-impairment

VI specialists at your regional
education service center



Survey the field

Find a teacher who has a good track record for collaboration. Itinerant positions require people with collaboration skills, diagnostic & report writing skills, organizational ability, time management and a willingness to learn new technologies. Strong TVIs are also life-long learners.

Plant the seed

Give your new recruit the TVI and O&M Preparation Newsletter (link at left). It has all the information to connect them with a university training program.

Nurture the new professional

Changing disciplines and the application process can be daunting. The VI specialist at the ESC or a local VI professional can mentor during the application process and beyond. Be prepared to support your new TVI throughout their training, especially during the braille course as it is a time-intensive course. A mentor from the statewide VI mentor program will be assigned once your TVI has a caseload.

Reap the harvest

Once your new TVI has completed one university VI course and is enrolled in another, he or she is eligible to be your TVI of record with an emergency permit. He or she will be supported by a certified VI mentor.

Share the bounty

If your district doesn't have enough students with visual impairments to support a full-time TVI you have two options. You can have your TVI serve a dual role, such as homebound services. You can also co-op for services with other district(s) who would pay a percentage of the TVI's time.