

# Who Works with Students with Visual Impairments



Teachers of students with visual impairments (TSVIs) and certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS) provide instruction to meet students' unique educational needs as the result of a visual impairment. TVIs and COMS work together as part of the educational team and serve students ranging in age from birth through 21 years old.

## What is the unique expertise of each professional?

TSVIs	COMS
Teaches specialized skills such as braille literacy, use of optical devices, tactile maps and many others	Teaches body and spatial awareness and directional/positional concepts
Teaches skills necessary to access the general curriculum	Provides skills related to efficient and purposeful movement in a variety of environments
Collaborates with educators and families on instructional programming	Provides instruction in the use of canes and adaptive devices
Performs specialized evaluations	Performs specialized O&M evaluations
Consults with school personnel on assessment/evaluations, including high-stakes testing accommodations	Consults with educators, diagnosticians and others on issues related to orientation and mobility
Provides services within educational and/or home setting as required by IDEA	Provides services within the home, school and community settings as required by IDEA

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**Website:** [Professional Preparation in Visual Impairments](https://www.tsbvi.edu/professional-preparation) or <https://www.tsbvi.edu/statewide-resources/professional-preparation>

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