

Role of a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments

The Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) is responsible for teaching students the skills necessary to access the core curriculum as well as to teach students concepts and experiences that most sighted students learn incidentally by observing others. These additional skills students who are blind or visually impaired need instruction in is known as the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC). It consists of knowledge and skills that students will need in order to be independent. There are nine areas of the ECC. Not all students will need instruction in all areas or components, but each should be carefully considered.

1. **Compensatory or Functional Academic Skills** includes concept development, spatial understanding, study & organizational skills, speaking & listening skills, and adaptations needed to access the core curriculum (braille, large print, regular print with low vision devices, recordings)
2. **Career Education** includes the basic knowledge of the world of work, transition from school to post-secondary options, etc.
3. **Recreation & Leisure Skills** includes the development of life-long skills beyond team sports (play, recreational reading, athletics, hobbies, etc.)
4. **Sensory Efficiency Skills** includes using one's remaining senses (vision, auditory, olfactory, and tactile) to function more efficiently and effectively. (Use of environmental cues, non-optical tools, optical low vision devices, etc.)
5. **Orientation & Mobility** includes body and spatial awareness, independent travel, use of long cane, protective techniques, cardinal directions, mental mapping, etc.
6. **Use of Assistive Technology** includes the use of electronic note-takers, screen enlarging software, speech synthesis, digital media, video magnification, etc.
7. **Self Determination** includes teaching students to be in control of their lives. (self-awareness, knowledge of one's visual impairment, self-advocacy, choice making, self-evaluation and adjustment, etc.)
8. **Independent Living Skills** includes everyday activities that allow a person to lead independent lives (personal hygiene, food preparation, money & time management, organization, etc.
9. **Social Interaction** includes socially appropriate behavior, such as facial expressions, body language, eye contact, etc. are primarily learned by watching others.

Helpful Website Resources:

acb.org

afb.org

aph.org

familyconnect.org

nfb.org

pathstoliteracy.org

perkins.org

teachingvisuallyimpaired.com

tsbvi.edu

wonderbaby.org