KANSAS INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (KIRC)



The **Kansas Instructional Resource Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (KIRC)** provides instructional materials and services, including professional development seminars, to support teachers across Kansas working with students with visual impairments. The project represents a partnership between the **Kansas State Department of Education** and the **Kansas State School for the Blind**.



STUDENTS RECEIVED TIMELY INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Currently, 1,131 Kansas students with visual impairments are registered in the KIRC lending database. To support these students, during the 2018-19 school year KIRC provided \$425,908 in resources to 93 Kansas school districts, as well as educational organizations including private schools and infant-toddler programs. These resources, which can be found in a searchable, online catalog (http://webopac.klas.com/ksirc), include textbooks and library books in braille and large type, assistive technology, and

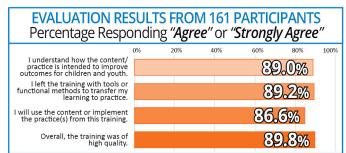
\$425,000
in instructional resources for students with visual impairments

ACROSS 93 KANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS

electronic files that meet the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS). Additionally, KIRC coordinates and maintains the annual federal count and funds for the American Printing House for the Blind. In 2018, the allocation of funds was \$241,453 for the 791 Kansas students who qualified for federal quota funds.



EDUCATORS EXPANDED SKILLS



During the 2018-19 school year, KIRC provided four workshops attended by a combined 211 participants, including TSVI/COMS, administrators, teachers, and related service providers. Through these workshops, national experts provided two days of training for braille transcribers, a one-day training on Movement and Physical Education for Students With Sensory Impairments, and the first annual Kansas Vision Symposium. A year majority

annual Kansas Vision Symposium. A vast majority of participants found the workshops to be practical, beneficial, and high quality.

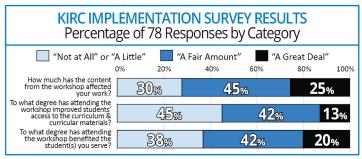
All four 2018-19 KIRC workshops were observed by members of the TASN Evaluation team. Trainers met

73% of indicators regarding high-quality professional development, including 100% of indicators in the Demonstration domain and 75% in the Engagement domain.

"It was the best training I have been to in over 10 years.
Period!!!"

TEACHERS MET INSTRUCTIONAL NEEDS

After each workshop, participants utilized newly learned skills to support students. Results from follow-up surveys showed that the workshops impacted educators' instructional practices and students' access to curricular materials.



"I enjoyed the training very much. I left feeling energized and thinking about ways to increase and improve movement for students with visual impairments."

Additionally, follow-up survey results from 20 workshop participants in 2016-17, 35 workshop participants in 2017-18, and 28 workshop participants in 2018-19 indicate a continued trend toward the increased use of Unified English Braille, the international standard adopted by the Braille Authority of North America in 2012.

