RECRUITING TEACHERS OF STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS & CERTIFIED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS

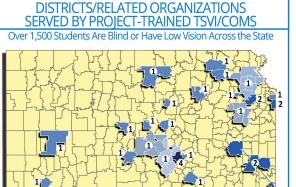
2018

The Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) Field Services Department collaborates with both the **Kansas State Department of Education** and the TASN Coordination project to recruit and train **Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI)** and **Certified Orientation** and **Mobility Specialists (COMS)**. The TASN support offsets tuition and fees, books, and some travel while participants are attending the out-of-state, graduate-level teacher preparation programs. This includes KSSB providing pre-service mentoring and onsite support to participants in training. Additionally, participants complete an immersion experience at KSSB which fulfills the student teaching and/or internship requirements of their program.



TSVI/COMS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Teachers of Students With Visual Impairments & Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists Preparation and Mentorship (TSVI/COMS) project supports the training of licensed teachers to be endorsed as a TSVI or individuals with a bachelor's degree to become a COMS. After the participants have



Number of TSVI/COMS representing the highlighted district or group of districts

completed their program of study and earned their endorsement and/or certification, the Kansas TSVI/COMS project facilitates up to three additional years of support through the TASN Kansas Early Career Special Educator Mentoring program (eMSS).

The TSVI/COMS project began in 2007 and is in its 11th year of operation. Participants are provided training through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Missouri State University, Texas Tech University, or the University of Arkansas at Little Rock depending on convenience and whether they are seeking a TSVI certification, COMS certification, or a dual certification.

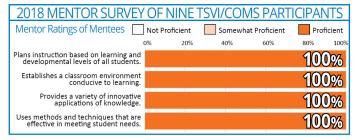
of participants
retained
as TSV/COMS
throughout
their careers
in education

Since 2007, 33 individuals have completed the program. All but one of these educators (97%) are still actively working as or finished their careers in education as TSVI/COMS. Nine additional educators are

currently working toward their certification. Although the project is continually working to increase the number of TSVI/COMS in Kansas, with over 1,500 students throughout the state who are blind or have low vision, a need for additional certified educators remains.

E-MSS PROGRAM

During the 2017-18 school year, eMSS mentors provided proficiency ratings on nine TSVI/COMS project participants, indicating 100% proficiency for each of the Kansas educator constructs they were asked to rate.

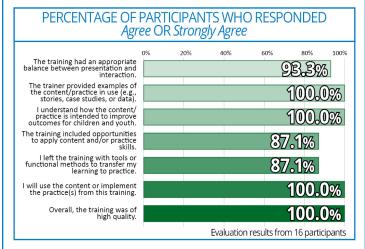


Seven of the TSVI/COMS mentees also completed eMSS surveys during the 2017-18 school year, rating themselves on a series of items regarding their skills, beliefs, and satisfaction; 88% of TSVI/COMS agreed with the statement *I regularly communicate with parents regarding the behavioral progress of their child* while 100% agreed with the statements:

- I am given the support I need to teach students with disabilities.
- I am clear on my role and my responsibilities in my job.
- My students are engaged in the lessons that I teach.
- I am able to meet the learning needs of all my students.
- I regularly communicate with parents regarding the academic progress of their child.
- I am generally satisfied with being a teacher at this school.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

During the 2017-18 school year, two additional training opportunities, attended by 25 participants, were provided at KSSB, including a Functional Vision Assessment class and a Learning Media Assessment/Sensory Learning Kit class. Evaluation surveys following each training showed that participants plan to implement the newly learned practices.



Each of these events was observed by a member of the TASN Evaluation team. Trainers met 86% of indicators regarding high-quality professional development, including 100% of the indicators in the Engagement domain, 83% in the Demonstration domain, and 83% in the Mastery domain.

"It was an awesome experience getting to show off my students and what they are working on when my mentor came to observe me."



MORE INFORMATION AT: WWW.KSDETASN.ORG/TSVI