

PREPARATION AND MENTORING FOR TEACHERS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED & CERTIFIED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS

2019

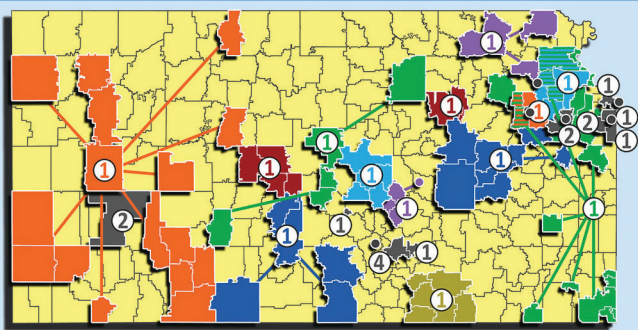
The **Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB)** Field Services Department collaborates with both the **Kansas State Department of Education** and the **TASN Coordination** project to recruit and train **Teachers of Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (TSVI)** and **Certified Orientation and 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 preservice 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

DISTRICTS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS SERVED BY PROJECT-TRAINED TSVI/COMS

Over 1,500 Kansas Students are Blind or Have Low Vision



Number of TSVI/COMS representing the highlighted district or group of districts. Dots represent various other education organizations. Two participants support early childhood programs throughout the western half of the state.

Teachers of Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists Preparation and Mentorship (TSVI/COMS) project supports the training of licensed teachers to be endorsed as TSVI or individuals with a bachelor's degree to become COMS. After the participants have 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 **TASN e-Mentoring for Student Success (eMSS)**.

The TSVI/COMS project began in 2007 and is in its 12th 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.

Since 2007, 41 individuals have completed the program. All but four of these educators (90%) are still actively working as or finished their careers in education as TSVI/COMS. Ten additional educators are currently working toward their certification. Although the project is continually working to increase the number of

93%
of participants
retained
as TSVI/COMS
throughout
their careers
in education

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.

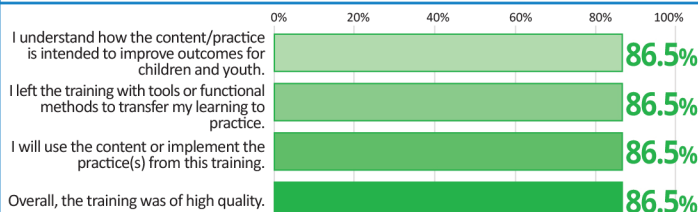
PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TO EXPAND TEACHERS' SKILLS

Along with offsetting the cost of coursework, during the 2018-19 school year, TSVI/COMS provided two additional face-to-face training opportunities, the 1st Annual Kansas Vision Symposium attended by 59 participants and a Learning Media Assessment class attended by six participants. Evaluation surveys following the Vision Symposium showed that participants understood and planned to implement the newly learned practices.

Pre/Post Self-Reflections completed after the two-day Learning Media Assessment training indicated that participants' effectiveness increased in all domains. Each of these events was observed by a member of the TASN Evaluation team. Trainers met 79% of indicators regarding high-quality professional development, including 100% of the indicators in the Demonstration domain and 92% in the Engagement domain.

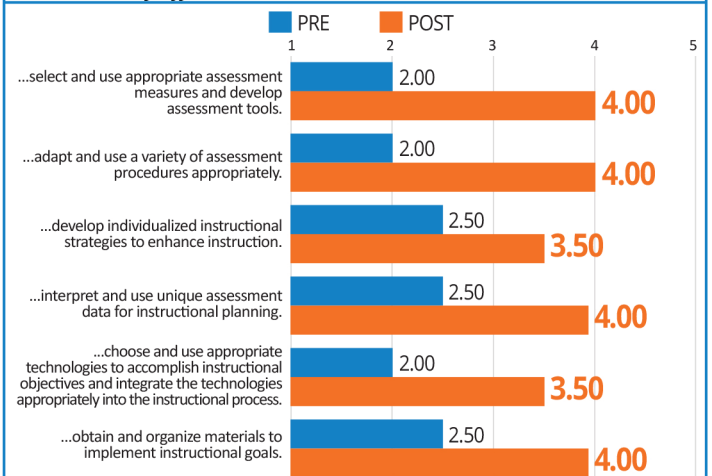
EVALUATION RESULTS FROM 37 PARTICIPANTS

Percentage Responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree"



LEARNING MEDIA ASSESSMENT PARTICIPANT PRE/POST RATINGS

"My Effectiveness to..." (1 = "Little", 5 = "Great")



"This training has
been so amazing!
So many helpful things!"

— TRAINING PARTICIPANT

"I am very excited
to start
implementing!"

— TRAINING PARTICIPANT