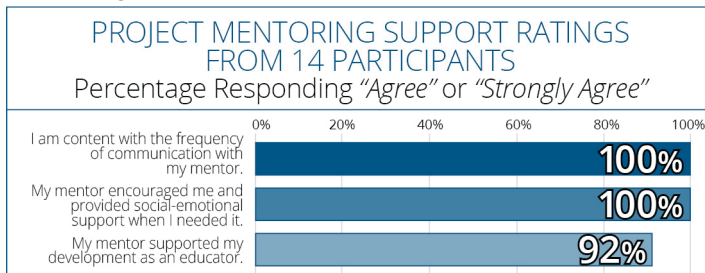


The Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) Field Services Department collaborates with both the Kansas State Department of Education and the TASN Coordination project to recruit and train **Teachers of Students Who Are Visually Impaired (TSVI)** and **Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS)**. The TASN support offsets tuition and fees, books, and travel expenses while participants are attending the out-of-state, graduate-level teacher preparation programs. KSSB provides preservice mentoring and onsite support to participants throughout their program of study. 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 TASN TSVI/COMS Preparation and Mentorship project supports the training of licensed teachers to be endorsed as TSVIs or individuals with a bachelor's degree to become COMS. After the participants have completed their program of study and earned their endorsement or certification, the project facilitates up to three additional years of support through TASN e-Mentoring for Student Success (eMSS).



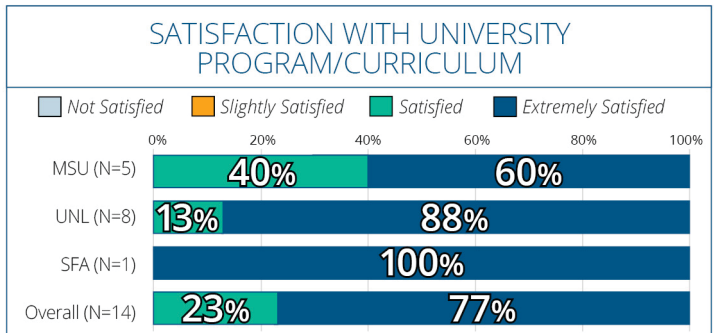
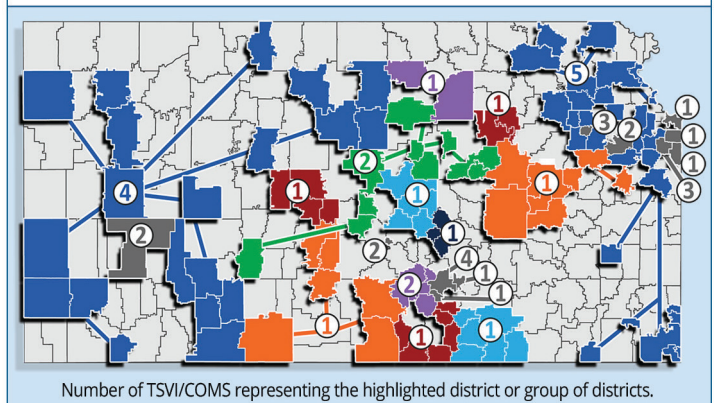
The TSVI/COMS Preparation and Mentorship project began in 2007 and is in its 13th year of operation. Participants are provided training through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), Missouri State University (MSU), or Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) depending on convenience and whether they are seeking a TSVI certification, COMS certification, or a dual certification.

Since 2007, 42 individuals have become TSVIs or COMS through the Preparation and Mentorship project. All but four of these educators (90%) are still actively working as or finished their careers in education as TSVI/COMS. Thirteen additional educators are currently working toward their certification. Although the project is increasing 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.

100%
of participants described the TSVI/COMS coursework as **extremely valuable**

DISTRICTS SERVED BY PROJECT-TRAINED TSVI/COMS

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



PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TO EXPAND EDUCATORS' SKILLS

Along with offsetting the cost of coursework, during the 2019–20 school year, the TSVI/COMS Preparation and Mentorship project provided four face-to-face training opportunities: the Second Annual Kansas Vision Symposium attended by 95 participants, a Learning Media Assessment class attended by 16 participants, a Functional Vision Assessment class attended by 17 participants, and a Learning Media Assessment for Students Who Have a Visual Impairment and Significant Disabilities workshop attended by 17 participants. Evaluation surveys following the four events showed that participants understood and planned 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 Demonstration domain and 95% in the Engagement domain. Follow-up data revealed that 100% of responding participants saw benefits to their instructional practice.

