



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

2017



The Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) Field Services Department collaborates with both KSDE and the TASN Coordination project to recruit and train **Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI)** and **Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS)**. 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. The TASN grant offsets tuition and fees, books, and some travel while participants are attending the out-of-state, graduate-level teacher preparation programs.

## TVI / COMS TRAINING

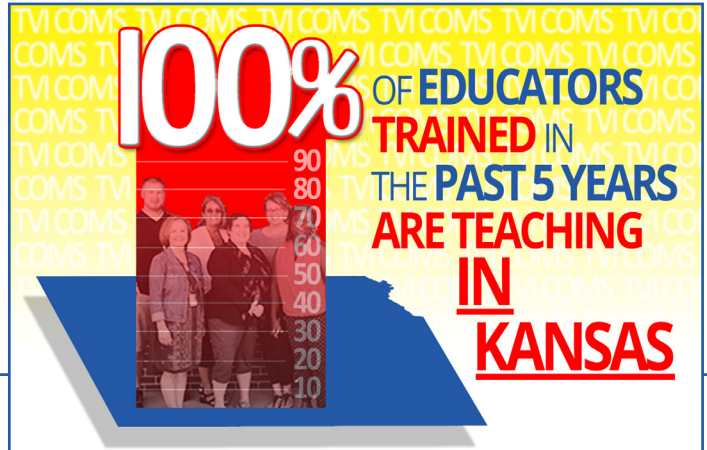
The Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments & Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists Preparation and Mentorship project supports the training of licensed teachers to be endorsed as a TVI or individuals with a bachelor's degree to become COMS. Along with grant funding, when the participants have completed their program of study and earned their endorsement and/or certification, the Kansas TVI/COMS Preparation and Mentorship project assists them

to enroll for up to three years of additional support through the TASN Kansas Early Career Special Educator Mentoring program (eMSS). The TVI/COMS training began in 2007 and is in its 10th year of operation. TVI training is provided through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Missouri State University. COMS and/or COMS/TVI (dual-certified)

training is provided through Texas Tech University.

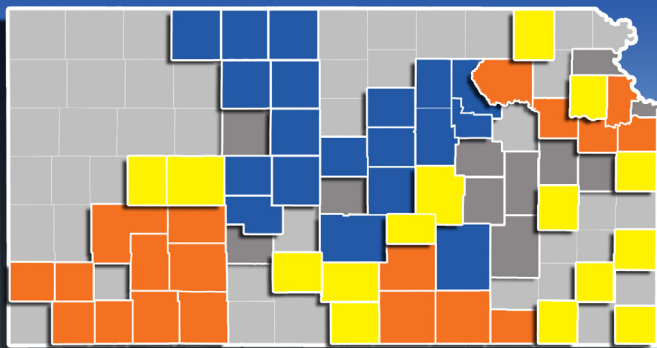
To date, 25 individuals have completed the program and 20 are currently in training; one is on track to complete their endorsement in the summer of 2017, 12 are on track

*"I appreciate being part of the training program for TVI/COMS. This will enable me to serve the students in my rural areas, with high qualifications."*



to complete within the 2017-18 school year, three within the 2018-19 school year, and four within the 2019-20 school year. All of the 15 individuals who completed the program throughout the 2012-17 State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) are still working as TVI/COMS in Kansas. All 15 of these individuals also participated in the eMSS program during or after completion of their TVI/COMS training. Of the 10 individuals who completed the program within the previous five-year SPDG cycle, all are still working as TVI/COMS in Kansas with the exception of one retiree and one participant who passed away. Learn more about the program at <http://www.ksdetasn.org/tvi>.

## COUNTIES SERVED BY PROJECT-TRAINED TVI / COMS



*"The opportunity that this grant provided me with has been life changing. Special education was an area I had never considered during my 14 years of teaching. Although the TVI and COMS programs required a lot of time and hard work, I have ended up with a job I love. I have found 'my place' in the field of education! I am honored to be a part of these students' lives and a part of this amazing profession. Thank you for the opportunity and the incredible amount of support!"*

MORE INFORMATION AT:  
[WWW.KSDEASN.ORG/TVI](http://WWW.KSDEASN.ORG/TVI)