

The Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) Field Services Outreach 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 to support participants in-training on-site. Additionally, participants complete an immersion experience at KSSB which fulfills the student teaching and/or internships requirements of their program. The TASN grant pays for tuition and fees, books, and some travel while participants are attending the out-of-state graduate level teacher preparation programs.



TVI / COMS TRAINING

Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments & Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists Preparation and Mentorship project supports the training of licensed teachers to become



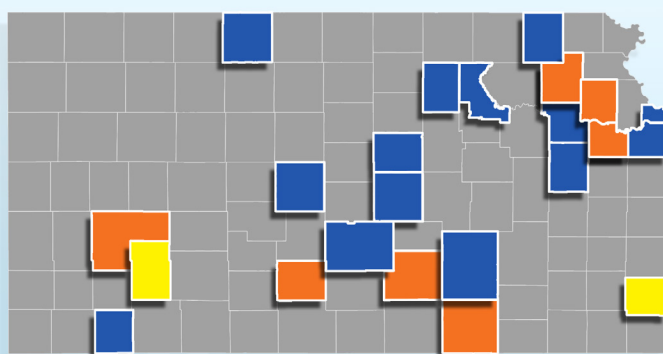
endorsed as a TVI or individuals with a bachelor's degree to become COMS. Along with grant funding, when the participants have completed their program of study and earned their endorsement and/or certification, the Kansas TVI/COMS Preparation and Mentorship project assists them to enroll for an additional three years of support through the TASN Kansas Early Career Special Educator Mentoring program (eMSS).

The TVI/COMS training began in 2007 and is in its ninth 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, 27 individuals have completed the program and 14 are currently in training. **With the exception of one recent retiree, all individuals who have thus far completed training within the five-year 2012-2017 State Personnel Development Grant cycle are still working as TVI/COMS in Kansas.** Additionally, all 27 individuals who have completed training participated in the eMSS program during or after completion of their TVI/COMS training. Learn more about the program at <http://www.ksdetasn.org/tvi>.

COUNTIES SERVED BY PROJECT-TRAINED TVI/COMS



● TVI ● COMS ● BOTH TVI & COMS

"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."

"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!"



TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

WWW.KSDETASN.ORG/TVI