

SOMETHING NEW!



Presenting...

Short-Term Programs OFFERED AT THE NMSBVI ALAMOGORDO CAMPUS

The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI) has developed a short term program to help local Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and Orientation & Mobility (O&M) staff meet the unique needs of students with visual impairments.

Who is this program intended to help?

The program is designed to help local TVI/O&Ms meet the needs of students with visual impairments. Due to factors beyond the control of local TVI/O&Ms some important VI skills are either not taught or covered as thoroughly as the local TVI/O&Ms would like. Time constraints, availability of resources, ability to transport students to meaningful lesson sites and other real world issues can make it difficult for local TVI/O&Ms to meet every need. The short term program at NMSBVI can help local TVI/O&Ms:

- Overcome difficulty in transporting O&M student to meaningful lesson sites
- Provide instruction in critical daily living skills areas such as clothing management and food preparation
- Augment district transition process with VI specific assessments
- Justify expenditures for technology and adaptive equipment that students have had success with at NMSBVI

- Develop VI specific skills necessary to benefit from challenging core content instruction in district classrooms

To benefit from the short term program at NMSBVI, students must be capable of being away from home for a week, picking up new skills/concepts quickly in an intensive instructional format, and capable of managing behaviors in a new environment.

What is the purpose of the short term program?

The purpose of the short term program at NMSBVI is to instill skills & concepts in as compressed a period of time as possible. The program revolves around skills and concepts that can be difficult for local TVI/O&Ms to address. Program offerings will change & expand based on needs expressed by local TVI/O&Ms. Currently, the program areas are:

- Orientation & Mobility: cane skills, grid and address systems, street crossings, GPS
- Transition: complete assessments and transition planning

- Independent Living Skills: money management, clothing management, food and nutrition, household management, career exploration, child care
- Technology: Braille note takers, computer technology
- Braille: Braille code, slate and stylus
- Math: abacus, elementary Nemeth, middle school Nemeth, Algebra Nemeth, Geometry Nemeth
- Science: lab equipment, Braille in science, (SC)2, graphing
- Overarching skills: test taking strategies, note taking

The program is designed to be responsive to the needs of local TVI/O&Ms. To that end, a 'request a skill' link has been established on the website. Additional modules can be created as needs arise.

When will this program be available?

The program will be accepting students through the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year. The program will also run through seven weeks of summer, beginning the week of June 13th. Student enrollment in the program will be limited to no more than two per week during the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year and no more than four per week during the summer.

Where will the program take place?

The program will take place at the NMSBVI campus in Alamogordo.

Why is the program needed?

Local TVI/O&Ms have found it increasingly difficult to meet all of the needs of the visually impaired students via the itinerant based model common to New Mexico school districts. Time and instructional opportunities are cited as the primary limiting factors. The short term program at NMSBVI has been designed to help local TVI/O&Ms overcome these obstacles. The program does not offer every skill and concept needed by students with visual impairments as it is not intended to replace local TVI/O&Ms. Indeed, the program will be ineffective without the follow up instruction provided by local TVI/O&Ms. The program exists to support local TVI/O&Ms.

How do students access the program?

In an effort to assist students, districts and families the normal acceptance process has been abbreviated. As with any process, there are steps that need to be followed and paperwork that needs to be completed. The paperwork is found in the

"Forms" section of the website while the acceptance process is detailed below.

- The local TVI/O&M determines that a student (a) needs to develop a VI specific skill and (b) is capable of learning that skill in the intensive format offered via the NMSBVI short term program.
- The local TVI/O&M contacts NMSBVI to get more information about the module that addresses the VI specific skill the student needs to learn as well as about the short term program generally.
- The local TVI/O&M contacts the parents of the student and lets them know that the short term program at NMSBVI will help the student master the specific VI skill in question.
- Assuming the parent, local TVI/O&M, district and NMSBVI agree that the short term program is appropriate for the student, a date is set for the student to attend.
- The local TVI/O&M and parent complete the necessary forms.
- The parent, local TVI/O&M, district and NMSBVI complete an IEP addendum.
- The local core content teachers develop a packet of work for the student to complete while at NMSBVI. This will help prevent the student from falling behind in core content areas. Students who attend the short term program at NMSBVI will have at least two periods a day to work on core content assignments from the district plus the opportunity to access the resource room after school.
- Students from outside of the Alamogordo area will come to NMSBVI on Sunday evening and return Friday afternoon/evening.

For more information:

please visit us online at www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us or contact Mr. Ron Later, O&M Instructor, NMSBVI Related Services email: RLater@nmsbvi.k12.nm.us Phone: 575-439-4478



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