



Deer Valley Unified School District

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Role of the Itinerant Teacher of the Visually Impaired **in the Academic Setting**

Visually Impaired services are a special education service or a related service, as defined by Federal Regulations of IDEA of 2004. Visually Impaired services may be provided to a student who qualifies with an identified visual impairment and whose progress in the general education curriculum is impacted by their visual impairment.

An itinerant teacher is a highly qualified professional who travels to each of the campuses within the district to provide instruction and consultation for students with visual impairments.

The **Teacher of Visually Impaired Students (TVI)** has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Has primary responsibility for specialized instruction and services required to meet the unique educational needs of students with visual impairments.
- Possesses the skills and abilities necessary to provide and coordinate specialized instruction for students with visual impairments.
- Assists the student, parents, special and general education teachers and paraprofessionals, and the student's sighted peers in
 - understanding the unique educational needs and learning characteristics of students with visual impairments,
 - becoming aware of services and support available from local programs for students with visual impairments,
 - acquiring information regarding local, state, and national resources for the education of students with visual impairment, and
 - interpreting the students with visual impairments specific eye condition, the educational implications of the visual impairment, and the results of functional vision and learning media assessments.
- Consults regularly with the general education classroom teacher, other regular and special education personnel, parents, and others to coordinate programs and services for the student with a visual impairment.

- Shares responsibility with general education classroom teacher and/or special education teacher in the identification of instructional areas in which the student with a visual impairment requires assistance.
- Assures that large print or braille texts, supplementary materials, educational aids, and equipment needed by the student with a visual impairment, and the general education classroom teacher or special education teacher, are provided in a timely manner to ensure the student's maximum participation in all classroom activities.
- Provides instruction in the development and maintenance of skills to meet the student's unique educational needs in the following areas, as indicated in the IEP:
 - low vision and visual efficiency skills,
 - concept development & academic skills,
 - daily living skills,
 - career and vocational education skills,
 - communication skills (these skills include braille reading and writing as appropriate),
 - social/emotional skills and abilities, and
 - sensory motor skills,
- Prepares sequential and meaningful instruction geared to the student's assessed needs, IEP goals and objectives, functioning, and motivational levels. This instruction should be reflected in weekly or monthly lesson plans, as appropriate.
- Provides assistance to the general education classroom teacher and/or special education teacher in academic subjects and activities of the classroom that, as a direct result of the student's visual impairment, require adaptation for the student.
- Provides initial and ongoing assessment:
 - consults with assessment team to determine appropriate testing materials and modifications needed,
 - assists with assessments when needed,
 - interprets assessment results when needed.
- Conducts functional vision/learning media assessments and produces written reports.
- Attends IEP meetings for students with visual impairments.
- Maintains ongoing contact with parents to assist them in the development of a realistic understanding of their child's abilities, progress, and future goals.
- Provides in-service training programs for school personnel and students and education for parents regarding the needs of students with visual impairments and adaptations and services for students with visual impairments.