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**WISCONSIN
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The Wisconsin Center for the
Blind and Visually Impaired is a
part of the Wisconsin Department
of Public Instruction Division for
Learning Support.



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WCBVI Mentoring Program



WCBVI is pleased to provide
vision-specific mentoring for
newly-licensed Teachers of the
Visually Impaired and
Orientation & Mobility
Specialists



* This effort is in alignment with <https://dpi.wi.gov/tepd/initial-educators/wisconsin-induction-guidelines> and PI 34.01

The WCBVI Mentoring Program benefits school districts, mentores, protégés, and students!

Benefits for School Districts and Administrators:

Decreases expenses related to staff turnover and builds continuity related to teacher learning and retention.

Increases professional expertise as new teachers of the visually impaired are guided to:

- Obtain education materials that are free to districts for eligible students
- Receive technology on a trial basis along with technical support from the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WCBVI)
- Make use of free consultation services from the WCBVI Outreach consultants
- Learn about statewide family engagement activities and events
- Obtain vision-specific guidance for ongoing professional development
- Support for IEP development through initial and continuing evaluation and consultation
- Develop a thorough understanding of Wisconsin processes, policies, and procedures for evaluating and serving students with visual impairments

Benefits for Mentors:

- Opportunity to provide leadership for positive change and innovative practices to ensure quality VI services
- Increase behavioral, pedagogical and content knowledge through collaboration with WCBVI coordinators, other mentors, and protégés
- Earn A.C.V.R.E.P points for recertification

Benefits for Protégés (new teachers):

- Opportunities for same-certification collaboration and problem solving
- Increase professional expertise through modeling
- Partner with and receive support from an experienced colleague in the unique field of vision

Most Importantly, Benefits for Students!

- Higher academic achievement!
- Access to high quality vision-specific transition planning
- Long-term teacher retention resulting in consistent high-quality instruction
- Services offered in a universally-designed manner to meet diverse learner needs



Who can be a protégé?

- TVIs who are newly-licensed and working in the field may receive mentoring services until fully licensed
- 1st year TVI or O&M who has completed a program will receive mentoring services for one year with an optional second year.
- TVI or O&M who is new to the state or re-entering the profession will receive mentoring services for one year with an optional second year.

Who can be a mentor?

TVIs and O&M instructors are qualified to be mentors in their field if they have the following:

- Commitment to serve as a mentor for two years
- Four years of experience as a TVI or O&M instructor
- Written administrative approval and support

