## For more information, please contact:

Alisha Ragainis, TVI, CLVT School-Age Vision Consultant and Low Vision Therapist

**Kay Rhode, COMS**Orientation & Mobility Consultant

wcbvi.outreach@wcbvi.k12.wi.us

Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired 1700 W State Street Janesville, WI 53546 www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us

# PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a part of the Misconsin Department of Public Instruction Division for



Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired 1700 W State Street

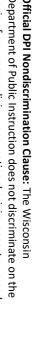
## WCBVI Mentoring Program



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 <a href="https://dpi.wi.gov/tepdl/initial-educators/wisconsin-induction-quidelines">https://dpi.wi.gov/tepdl/initial-educators/wisconsin-induction-quidelines</a> 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 highquality instruction
- Services offered in a universallydesigned 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

