

Education Services For Blind And Visually Impaired Children

A program of Catholic Charities Maine



Assistive Technology for Students with Blindness and Low Vision

Objective:

- Review AT categories and features
- Connect tools to student needs
- Consider low vision and braille access tools
- Time for questions



Who we are

ESBVIC

Contracted through the State of Maine's Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) which is part of the Department of Labor to assist schools in the education of children who are blind or visually impaired. Our services are at no cost to schools or families.

Staff

- 13 Teachers for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TVI's) (+ 3.5 vacancies)
- An Instructional Materials Center Coordinator
- Administrative assistant
- Regional Supervisor
- Program Director



Department of Labor

Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired

- Orientation & Mobility Specialists O&M's
- Blindness Rehab Specialists
- Vocational Rehabilitation Councilors

Catholic Charities Maine ESBVIC

- Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments TVI'
- Instructional Materials Center Coordinator

Iris Network

- Vision Rehabilitation Therapists
- Rehab Center Program



Why I'm here:

- Program awareness about ESBVIC, build relationships and shared understanding with you.
- We hope to accomplish this by sharing information and resources related to assistive technology we use while working with young people in Maine who are low vision, blind, deafblind, have CVI and/or complex needs.



Who we serve

- Children with blindness/visual impairments from birth to 22 years old (or completion of High School)
- In their educational environment wherever that may be.
- Severe visual impairment is 20/70 or worse
- There is an adverse impact on accessing education program.



TVIs and IEP's

- TVI services are part of IDEA
- Are provided via the IEP and 504 system
- Include direct and consultation services
- We are IEP team members



What we do

- Work collaboratively with students, teachers and families to ensure access educational program.
- Educate teams on the implications of vision loss.



Functional Vision Assessment

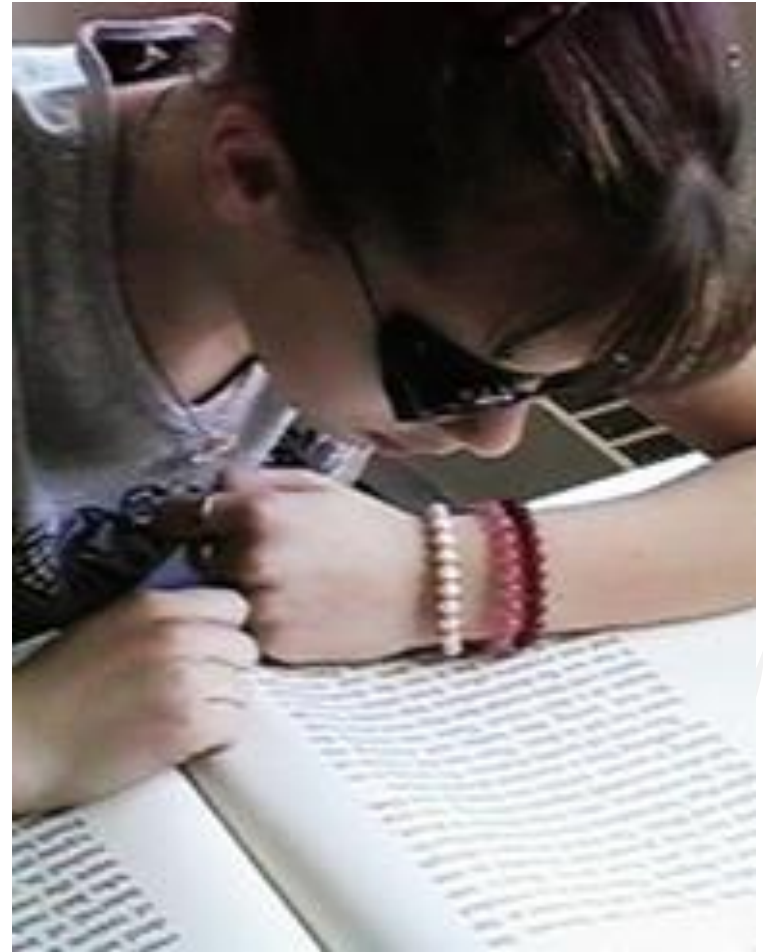


- FVA focuses on how vision is used functionally in daily life.
- The FVA identifies practical challenges, informs educational or therapeutic strategies, and helps optimize visual performance in real-world tasks.

Learning Media Assessment

The primary goal of an **LMA** is to identify the best methods and materials through which students with visual impairments can access information and learn effectively. This includes evaluating various media formats such as:

- **Braille**
- **Large Print**
- **Audio Books**
- **Tactile Materials**



Expanded Core Curriculum - disability specific skills



The **Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC)** provides targeted instruction in **nine key areas** that address the unique needs of students with vision loss due to challenges with incidental learning.



9 areas of the ECC

**Compensatory
Skills**

**Orientation
and Mobility**

**Assistive
Technology**

**Sensory
Efficiency**

**Social
Interaction**

**Independent
Living Skills**

**Recreation
and Leisure**

**Career &
Vocational
Education**

**Self-
Determination**

The ECC: Assistive Technology



Instructional Materials Center - IMC

- Maintains an inventory of braille/large print books
- American Printing House for the Blind



Matching Technology to Student Needs: The SETT Framework

S

is for student's
**strengths, current
performance and
weaknesses in:**

- Reading
- Math
- Writing
- Communication
- Learning and studying
- Vision, hearing and mobility
- Activities of daily living



E

is for learning
environment:

- How is the classroom physically arranged?
- What materials and equipment are used?
- How is instruction given (small groups, whole class)?



T

is **tasks** for
learning:

- What is the class expected to be able to do?
- Which tasks are essential for your child to be successful?



T

is for tools
being used to
help your child
and other tools
that may help.

The IEP team
considers the
assistive
technology range:

Low/No Tech



Mid-Level Tech



High Tech



Portable Camera-Based Magnification Tools



- Transformer:
- VZ-X:
- Key question:
What setup works
in class?



Stand Alone CCTV Options



Handheld Video Magnifiers



Tablet-Based CCTV and Digital Access

The Matt Connect

The Snow Pad



Braille Based Devices

Refreshable Braille Displays Braille Notetakers



Additional Assistive Technology Options



Questions????

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Resources & References

- azspoinstitute.com
- Teachingvisuallyimpaired.com
- Seeability.org
- Paths to Literacy
- Joyzabala.com

