

Teacher of the Visually Impaired



Career Description

Teachers of the visually impaired (or VI teachers) are specialized teachers with unique competencies to meet the diverse needs of the visually impaired.

VI teachers work within the special education system but address the unique needs of children with visual impairments. In addition to working with the children (usually in a one-to-one relationship), VI teachers work closely with other teachers, parents, and other people and organizations in the community. VI teachers are specialists at translating medical information into educational practices.

VI teachers understand basic diagnostic information about vision and visual impairments. They take information on a student's visual diagnosis and conduct a functional vision evaluation and a learning media assessment. Based on those sources of information, VI teachers develop a plan to best teach the student and work with others to address instructional needs, including basic core curriculum and student-specific needs.

Specific duties of a VI teacher might include:

- Teaching a toddler to enjoy playing with a variety of toys
- Teaching a young child how to read and write Braille
- Teaching students how to make a favorite snack
- Working with other educators and paraprofessionals to modify materials to address the impact of the visual impairment

VI teachers are certified by states through the educator certification systems. Depending on the state, VI teachers can be certified with a bachelors degree, a post-bachelors certification, and/or

a masters degree. Teachers must have a degree in education or special education.



Inquiries

Careers/Curriculum

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

1703 North Beauregard Street, Suite 440

Alexandria, VA 22311-1744

(703) 671-4500

www.aerbvi.org

Certification

Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

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Tucson, AZ 85745

(520) 887-6816

E-mail: info@acvrep.org

www.acvrep.org

Program Accreditation

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