



Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent

Dear administrators and supervisors of vision professionals,

Did you know that Wisconsin has approximately 100 Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) and 50 Orientation and Mobility Instructors (O&Ms) who serve approximately 1500 students throughout the state? Our dedicated vision professionals try to stay connected through a listserv and occasional conferences but we are usually working in isolation and emails only go so far in staying connected.

As part of our mission, the WCBVI Outreach Department sponsors professional development through Vision Program Support Teacher meetings. Program Support Teachers are people who provide leadership and training, as well as collaborate with others to enhance and guide appropriate services to students. Due to the low incidence of students with visual impairments, Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialists fill this role in their CESAs or districts.

These meetings allow time for vision professionals to share trainings from our field, to network, and to learn about DPI initiatives that help us contribute more effectively to IEP discussions and student outcomes.

School district and CESA administrators and supervisors are uniquely positioned to support quality instruction, increase same-certification collaboration, and participate in the retention of well-trained vision professionals. Please send your TVIs and O&Ms to our fall and spring one-day Program Support Teacher meetings. Your vision professionals can sign up for these meetings through our WCBVI website.

<http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/programs-and-services/pst-meetings>

Thank you for your attention and support,

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