

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council

Members 2026-2027 School Year

Council Members

1. Three parents of children who are visually impaired.

Katie Bakke

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

Kimberly Brown-Ubersox

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

Rachel Krogman

Term: September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2026

2. Three people who are members of an organization affiliated with visually impaired persons.

Cheryl Orgas, National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

Colleen Kickbush, Vision Forward

Term: January 13, 2025, to June 30, 2027

Kailee Kamps, Wisconsin Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired (WAER)

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

3. Three licensed teachers, one of whom is a teacher of the visually impaired (TVI), one of whom is an orientation and mobility instructor (O&M) and one of whom is a general education teacher (GEN ED).

Penny Kurkiewicz, GEN ED

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

Shannon Sheffer, TVI

Term September 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027

Jenn Raclaw, O&M, Vice Chair

Email: jraclaw@cesa1.k12.wi.us

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

4. One school board member.

Barbara Wuensch

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

5. One school district administrator.

Holly Smith

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

6. One school district special education director.

Laurie Schmidt

Term: September 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027

7. One cooperative educational service agency representative.

Teri Phalin

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

8. One person who has experience in educating the visually impaired or in educating teachers of the visually impaired and is affiliated with an institution of higher education.

Julie Hapeman, Chair

Email: JLHapeman@gmail.com

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

9. Three other members, at least one of whom is visually impaired.

Jennifer Ottowitz

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

Lealisa Stefl

Term: September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2028

VACANT seat

One member of whom has been certified by the library of congress as a braille transcriber.

Nettamara Doak

Term: January 13, 2025, to June 30, 2027

DPI Representatives

Manriquez, Paul, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Access and Opportunity

Piazza, Susan, Director of Bureau of Wisconsin Educational Services Programs

Soto, Dawn, Outreach Director, DPI Bureau of Wisconsin Educational Services Programs

Freedman, Tessa, Special Education Program Advisor, Tessa Freedberg, Bureau of Grant Administration and Monitoring

Tomev, Elizabeth, Director of Library Development, Bureau of Libraries, Division of School and Library Operations

Voecks, Beth, Library Services Manager, WI Talking Book & Braille Library

Wenzel, Dan, Director WSBVI

Fredel, Meghan, Education Consultant, DPI Bureau of WI Educational Services Programs, Outreach

Rhode, Kay, DPI Liaison to the Advisory Council, Education Consultant, DPI Bureau of WI Educational Services Programs, Outreach

Peissig, April, Administrative Professional to the Advisory Council, DPI Bureau of WI Educational Services Programs, Outreach

List of Statutorily Required Members

If you are interested in serving on the State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council, please contact us at bvi.advisorycouncil@wcbvi.k12.wi.us and a representative will contact you.