

## DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

### TSVI and COMS in SCHOOLS:

- Is a member of the student's educational team and helps develop the student's IEP
- Assesses functional vision, technology and learning media to determine the most appropriate tools for access to education.
- Teaches skills in different areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum: use of braille, large print and assistive technology, career education, independent living skills, recreation and leisure skills, social interaction skills and orientation and mobility skills.
- Connects students and their families to supporting organizations (PRCVI, CLVP-BC, CNIB)

### RESOURCES

#### PRCVI: <https://prcvi.org/>

Supports school districts to with resources, leadership and training to ensure equitable educational access for students with visual impairments.

#### CNIB

<https://www.cnib.ca/en?region=bc>

CNIB is a non-profit organization that delivers innovative program and advocacy.

#### VISION IMPAIRMENT PROGRAM – BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL <http://www.bcchildrens.ca/our-services>

The SunnyHill Vision Impairment program provides assessment, evaluation and support for children with visual impairment and their families. educational access for students with visual impairments.

#### BC BLIND SPORTS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

<http://www.bcblindsports.bc.ca/>

BC Blind Sports is a non-profit association dedicated to facilitating participation in physical activity for British Columbians who are blind, visually impaired, deafblind and those who have additional disabilities.

#### BLIND BEGINNINGS

<https://www.blindbeginnings.ca/>

Blind Beginnings is an organization that inspires children and youth who are blind or partially sighted and their families through diverse programs, experiences and counseling.

#### CHILDRENS LOW VISION PROJECT OF BC: <http://www.clvp-bc.com/>

CLVP-BC brings together a team of vision specialists to a clinic that evaluates each child and prescribes and dispenses low vision devices to students and their teams.

## VISION SERVICES



#### Inclusive Education

250.352.6681  
[inclusiveeducation.sd8.bc.ca](mailto:inclusiveeducation.sd8.bc.ca)



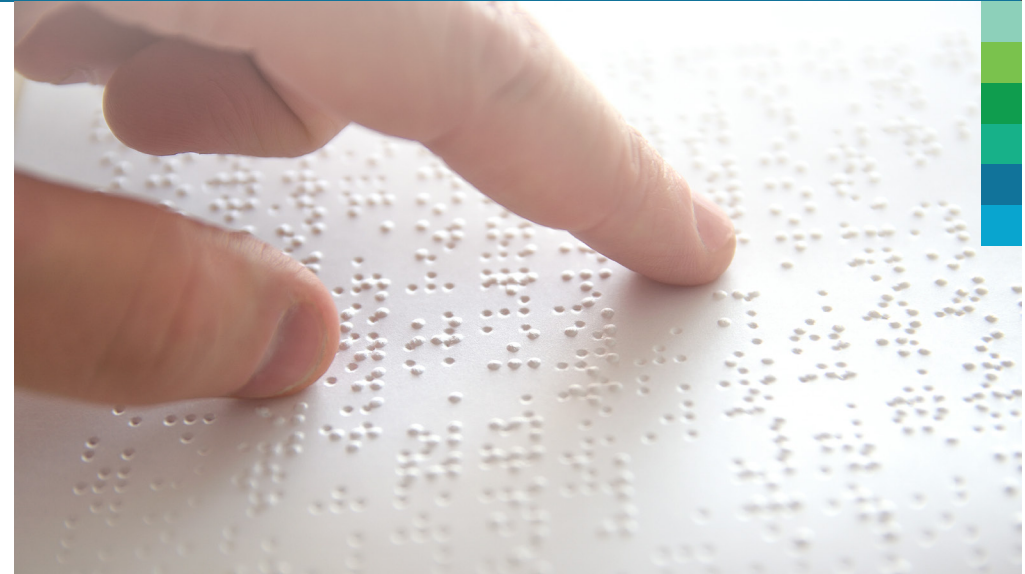
## WHAT IS A TEACHER OF STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS (TSVI) & ORIENTATION & MOBILITY SPECIALIST (COMS)?



### WHO WE ARE

The district TSVI/COMS is trained in working with students who are blind, Deafblind or children and youth who have low vision, along with students who have visual impairment with additional exceptionalities. The TSVI/COMS is an important member of the student's educational team and provides direct and indirect services in a variety of settings, including the student's home, school and community and in both indoor and outdoor environments.

A student with visual impairment is one whose visual acuity is not sufficient for the student to participate with ease in everyday activities. The impairment interferes with optimal learning and achievement and can result in a substantial educational disadvantage unless adaptations are made in the methods of presenting learning opportunities, the nature of the materials used and/or the learning environment. It is not intended to include students described as having visual perceptual difficulties unless they also have a vision loss (SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES: A MANUAL OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES, 2016 p.74).



## HOW TO ACCESS SERVICES:

### REFERRAL CRITERIA

- Documented observations of vision difficulties noticed at school: holds materials too close or too far; head tilt, excessive blinking, squinting; covers eye with hand or rubs eyes; eyes tear excessively; frequently bumps into or drops things; headaches, nausea, double vision and
- Current documentation in the opinion of an ophthalmologist, optometrist, orthoptist or the Visually Impaired Program at BC Children's Hospital, the student's functioning may be described by one of the following:
  - o A visual acuity of 6/21 (20/70) or less in the better eye after correction
  - o A visual field of 20 degrees or less
  - o Any progressive eye disease
  - o A visual problem or related visual stamina that is not correctable and that results in the student functioning as if his or her vision is limited to 6/21 (20/70)

*Information taken from SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES: A MANUAL OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES, 2016 p.74.*

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