

Looking for a Teacher of Blind and Low Vision Learners?



Teachers of Blind and Low Vision Learners (TBLVLs) are in high demand and can be hard to find. The Washington State School for the Blind's Vision Mentorship & Grant Program can help.

In collaboration with OSPI, WSDS, and Stephen F. Austin State University, we provide **fully paid tuition grants and mentorship** for Washington teachers to add a vision endorsement to their certificate.

Over the past eight years, we've partnered with nearly 40 school districts statewide to fill TBLVL positions. If you have an opening or anticipate one, let us help you grow your own TBLVL.

Common questions:

Who is qualified to apply?

This is for a graduate level endorsement program. Any certified teacher with a master's degree is eligible.

When is the application window?

Applications are accepted starting in January 2025. Applications are due by April 1st. Grants are awarded separate of admission to the program, usually in late April.

What does the grant pay for?

Our grant allows teachers to attend the Stephen F. Austin State University online endorsement program for teachers of students with visual impairments. It pays for all tuition. Course fees and books are the responsibility of the student.

Can I hire my teacher to fill the role conditionally?

Yes! Most grant recipients end up taking roles as their district's TBLVL before graduating from the program. This not only covers a position, but allows your teacher to finish the program quicker, as they will be earning practicum hours in the natural course of their job.

What if I don't have on-site support to mentor my teacher?

No problem. The WSSB Mentor Program is here to help with a team of teachers available to work with your teacher, offering both remote and in-person support. Mentor support comes at no cost to the district.

How long is the program?

Coursework is one year, starting in June and ending the following Spring. Practicum can be integrated into that year if you have a teacher hired conditionally who is earning hours as they teach, or it can be extended into a 2nd year.

How much time will my teacher need to complete the program's requirements?

The program requires a 350-hour practicum. If the teacher is hired to fill a TBLVL position conditionally, these hours will be a part of their role, provided there is sufficient caseload. Otherwise, it is important to dedicate time in their schedule to gain the required hours.

How does someone apply?

[Apply for the Stephen F. Austin Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments certification at this link](#)

What if I have additional questions?

You can contact Joe Dlugo at joe.dlugo@wssb.wa.gov or 360-464-3425.

Contact the [SFASU program](#) at omvi@sfasu.edu

[Visit the Mentorship and Grant Program web page](#)