

New Mexico School  
For the  
Blind and Visually Impaired  
  
Strategic Plan

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2012

Updated: 8/2015



## ***BELIEF STATEMENTS:***

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- All children can learn and we value their individual talents.
- Independence is the right and ultimate goal of every student who is blind or visually impaired.
- NMSBVI is the leader in the field of educating students who are blind or visually impaired.
- NMSBVI supports the education of all students with blindness and visual impairment in the state.
- Parents and students who are blind or visually impaired need to be provided current information about all aspects of the education of their children.
- Education begins with families and continues throughout the lives of individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
- Education of individuals who are blind or visually impaired encompasses not only academic skills, but also specialized skills of blindness and visual impairment including compensatory or functional academic skills, including communication modes, orientation and mobility, social interaction skills, independent living skills, recreation and leisure skills, career education, use of assistive technology, sensory efficiency skills, self-determination
- Children who are blind or visually impaired should have the ability and the choice to be integrated into their communities.
- We believe that all children learn best when provided with the appropriate level of specialized instruction and the appropriate educational environment.
- The most effective way to teach is through collaboration with one another and other partners.

- We hold ourselves accountable for excellence in preparing students to lead independent lives.
- We believe that NMSBVI should remain a separate entity to serve b/vi students.

### *Mission Statement*

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NMSBVI, an innovative leader and unifying entity in the field of educating students birth-high school who are blind or visually impaired, will identify and ensure quality education through collaborative relationships with students, families, and local/ state/national partners to provide outstanding advocacy, training, resources, and support services, thus ensuring that all students who are blind or visually impaired will become independent, productive members of their communities.

### *Objectives*

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1. 100% of students who are blind or visually impaired will graduate having achieved their school related goals in their transition plan.
2. 100% of students, families, districts and communities in New Mexico will have an understanding of the unique education and services needed for a student with blindness or visual impairment.

3. 100% of the educational settings serving New Mexico students who are blind or visually impaired will have highly qualified staff to teach their students.
4. 100% of New Mexico students with blindness or visual impairment will receive a quality education in the appropriate setting at the appropriate time.
5. NMSBVI will develop, implement and share quality, comprehensive and innovative approaches for educating New Mexico students who are blind or visually impaired.
6. A collaborative relationship will exist between NMSBVI and 100% of agencies in New Mexico serving blind or visually impaired students.

### *Goals*

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- We will foster an atmosphere of creativity that results in innovative practices and programs.
- We will create a training system that results in sufficient numbers of specialized staff in the field of blindness and visual impairment for the state of New Mexico.
- We will create a system to convey and receive information about blindness and visual impairment educational services, trends, research, etc. to all those involved or interested in serving students who are blind or visually impaired.

- We will build a system of data-driven decision making that will be used collaboratively to determine goals, services and settings for educating New Mexico students with blindness or visual impairments.
- We will develop a system that supports the successful transition of students with blindness or visual impairment and their programming across settings.
- We will acquire community support and the resources essential to advance the success of each student with blindness or visual impairment.