

USDB Outreach

By Brandon Watts, Director of Outreach Vision
Services

Mission Statement

- USDB Vision Outreach Services leads with inclusivity to prepare students with vision impairments for the highest level of independence in the home, school, and community.

Itinerant Teacher of the Visually Impaired

- Participates with the district and local education team to provide specialized instruction to students with vision impairments.
- Assists in providing large print or braille texts, learning materials, and appropriate equipment.
- Collaborates with the regular teacher, special education team, and parents to coordinate services.
- Attends and participates in the IEP or 504 process.
- Supports in-service training programs for school personnel, parents, and other interested parties.
- Reports student progress quarterly to special education teachers and parents.
- Provides one-on-one support based on the expanded core curriculum – the skills visually impaired individuals require to succeed home, school, and community.

Expanded Core Curriculum:

- Independent Living – money management, organization skills, personal hygiene, food preparation.
- Technology – braille notetakers, screen reading software, computer magnification, audio reading devices.
- Self Determination – ability to control ones life, accomplish goals, and advocate for self.
- Career Education – exploring strengths and interests and how they can apply to a future career.
- Recreation and Leisure – activities students can enjoy throughout their lives (sports, games, hobbies etc.).
- Sensory Efficiency Skills – efficiently utilizing remaining vision
- Orientation and Mobility – Skills and techniques for safe independent travel in environment
- Social Interaction Skills – instruction that emphasizes the importance of interacting and participating in activities with people and peers.

How a Student With a Vision Impairment Qualifies

- Students educational performance is impacted by a suspected vision loss
- Deteriorating eye condition (as determined by an eye doctor)
- Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) – Neurological Vision Impairment



What is having low vision like?

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE

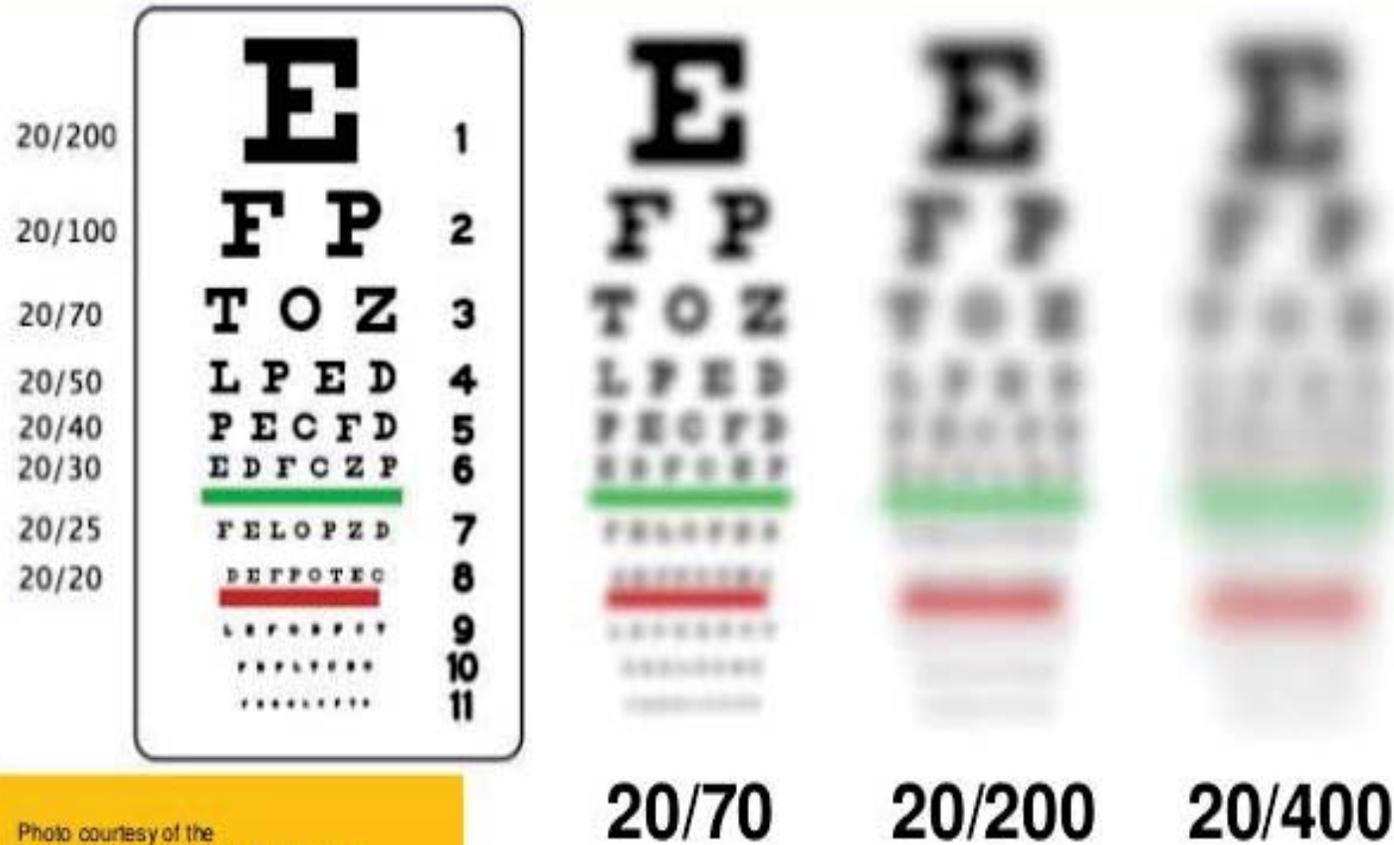


Photo courtesy of the
Cao Thang International Eye Hospital

Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI)

- Over 40% of the brains capacity involves visual processing.
- CVI is a “visual impairment due to damage or disorder of the visual pathways and visual centers in the brain, including pathways serving visual perception, cognition, and visual guidance of movement.”

Lueck, A. H., & Dutton, G. N. (2015). *Vision and the Brain*. New York, NY: AFB Press.



Students who Receive Braille

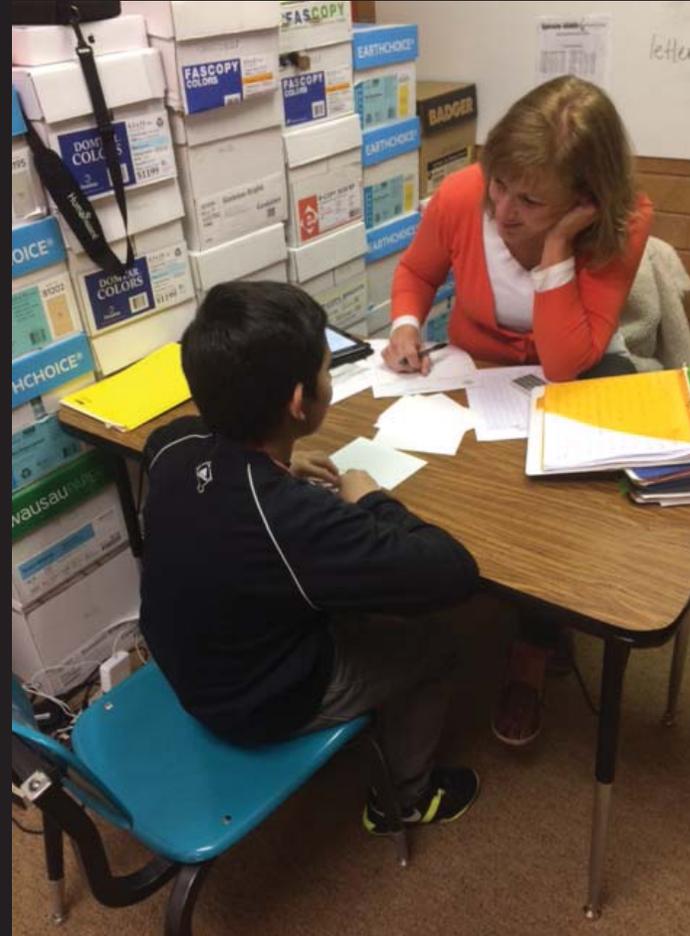
- Students who are totally blind
- Students who are legally blind even with correction or who have a degenerative eye condition



Work Spaces – We Take What We Can Get

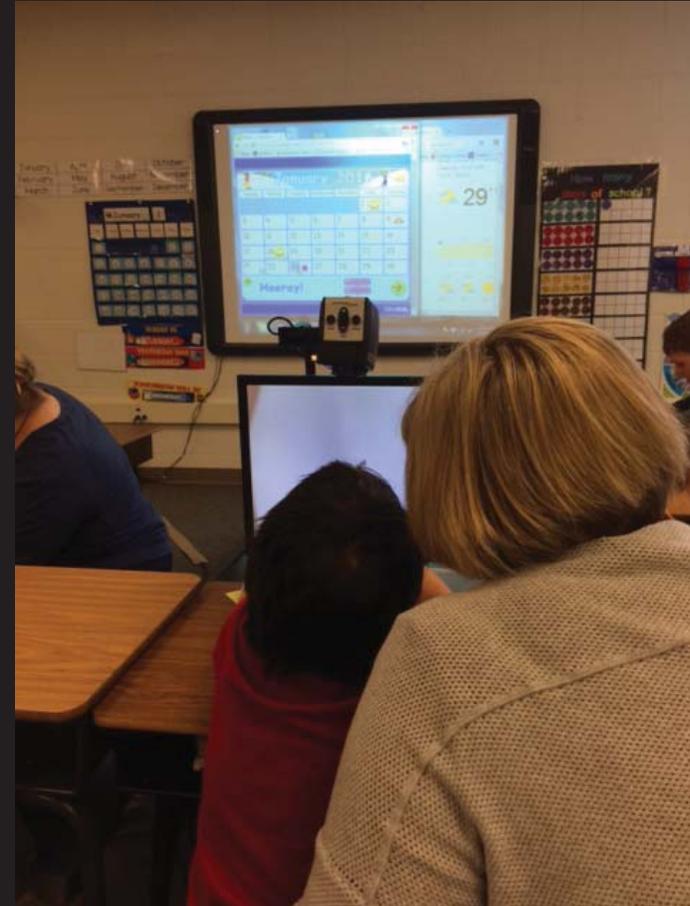
From classrooms

to storage rooms



Consult Services

- Students with low vision who are independent and only need accommodations for the classroom ie: Large print, preferential seating, extended time, using dark markers on the board, magnifiers, and CCTV's



Consult Services (Cont.)

- Students who are at a higher level of CVI and only need accommodations for the classroom ie: using high contrast and tactile materials



Outreach Service Providers

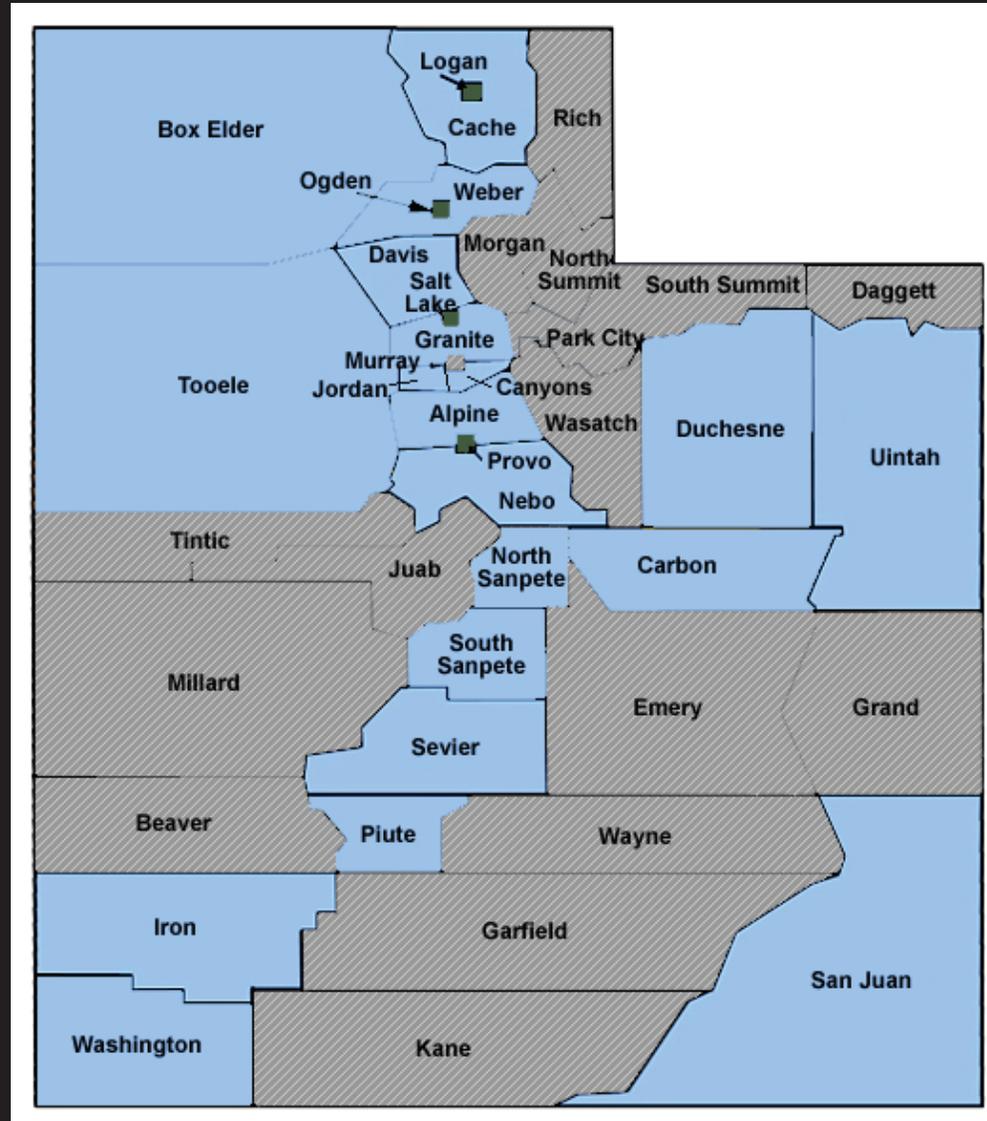
- 1 Director of Vision Services
- 1 Secretary
- 2 Lead Teachers
- 17 Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI)
- 4 Education Service Aides (ESA)

Students and Schools

- Total Students - 330
- Direct - 101
- Consult - 229
- School Districts – 31
- Charter Schools - 34

School Districts

- Beaver, Box Elder, Cache, Canyons, Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Juab, Kane, Logan Millard, Morgan, Murray, Nebo, North Sanpete, North Summit, Ogden, Piute, Rich, San Juan, Sevier, South Sanpete, South Summit, Tintic, Tooele, Uintah, Wayne





“Preparing students for the highest office of the
land, Citizen”
-Unknown