

### Activity 800.1 Support Local School Districts

- includes points 1, 6, and 7 of legislation
- Includes consultations with school personnel. This may include meeting with teachers, classroom observations, and demonstrating teaching techniques. Districts eligible for this service are those with students who have an acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after best correction, or who have a restricted field of 20 degrees or less.

### Activity 800.2 Direct consultation services 20%

- Includes points 1, 6, and 7
- Direct does not mean fulfilling IEP minutes. The use of the term “direct” can be confusing to districts. This would be demonstrating teaching techniques to a para or teacher with the student present. It also includes the observation of the para or teacher carrying through with the demonstration. In cases in which there is no certified TVI, this may be ongoing until such a certified staff member is obtained.

### Activity 800.3 Attend IEP meetings (via phone if over ten miles from BSS)

- Includes points 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

- I attend regardless, especially if I have done the actual evaluation. Meeting with parents and staff in person is always preferred over talking on the phone.
- Many initial referrals to other agencies are made during the IEP.

#### Activity 800.4 develop inservice training

- includes points 3 and 8.
- Respond to requests of local districts. Some requests I have had were Braille, Nemeth, Working with Students with Multiple Disabilities, Use of the Lightbox, Cortical Visual Impairments

#### Activity 800.5 Provide Inservice Training

- Includes points 3 and 8

Some examples of workshops offered:

- Designing and Modifying Curriculum
- Introduction to Braille
- The Expanded Core Curriculum for Students With Visual Impairments
- Activity Based Programming for Students with Multiple Disabilities including VI
- Introduction to Nemeth Code
- Literacy Skills for Students With VI

- Challenges include location of workshop: If the location is in Columbia, more participants will likely come. If the same workshop is in Kirksville, fewer will attend.

Activity 800.6 Provide cooperation and collaboration among all services

- Point 5
- Rehab Services for the Blind
- Physical and Occupational Therapy entities
- Regional Development Centers
- Lighthouse for the Blind Comprehensive Low Vision Project
- AT Reimbursement Program
- Federal Quota Registration
- Missouri Instructional Materials Resource Center
- Lighthouse Continuing Education Grant
- Wolfner Library
- First Steps
- MO Spin

Activity 801.1 Evaluations

- Points 2, 3, 6, and 7

Provide up to 30% of time. Main areas of assessment: assistive technology, braille skills, functional vision, learning

media, low vision, night orientation and mobility, and general orientation and mobility. Also to train district personnel to do these assessments

- 30% of time is an unrealistic measure. I do not keep track. I do not tell districts no if I am above my allotted percentage.
- In cases when there is a newly certified staff member, I go with them if they are uncomfortable doing the assessment on his or her own. I demonstrate to them how, perhaps do parts of the assessment while they observe. But the goal there is that next time, they will do the assessment independently.

#### Activity 801.2 Provide Inservice Training

- Seems to be a repeat of Activity 800.5

#### Activity 801.3 Provide info for parents

- Point 4
- Mostly by phone calls and emails
- Some working with First Steps. Efforts made to be informed very early of identification of infants with VI so parents can become acquainted.
- Some parents do not have access to MyLearningplan to sign up. We have them call our secretary who helps.

- Potential problem- on rare occasions, school districts begin seeing the BSS as a parent advocate and develop an adversarial relationship.

Goal 802 Collaboration with DESE with MAP review, identifying possible reviewers for braille versions of assessments, attendance of Blind Task Force, provide requested data, report data/consultant activities monthly

- Some schools are reluctant to release TVI's to review the braille and large print MAP and other assessment reviews
- The way the contract is worded, BSS's are only allowed to attend one Blind Task Force meeting per year. If we are an integral part of the development of services for students with VI, should we not be allowed to come to more than one?
- For the last several years, there has been a disconnect between DESE representative and the BSS's. In prior years, when Heike Johns and Betty McCartney were contact persons, we had a working relationship. This has not been true for the past several years.
- We have had a variety of reporting methods. So far we have not had monthly reporting methods. The new system we are going to use will apparently be monthly. We used spreadsheets, Formhog, and the last two years

were only asked to report total numbers at the end of our fiscal year.

## Evaluation methods

- Evaluations given at the end of each workshop
- Follow up to schools upon request (the request indicates something “clicked” at the training!)
- In the past, DESE sent out questionnaires regarding the effectiveness of the BSS programs.

## Legislation

(1) To act as a resource for school districts under the regional office of professional development with regard to eligible students.

(2) To make programming and placement recommendations to schools under the regional office of professional development using assessments and information developed within the IEP process;

(3) To provide in-service training in alternative techniques of blindness to classroom teachers and teachers' assistants for the blind engaged in the education of eligible students;

(4) To provide parents of eligible students with referrals and information regarding services available within the state

(5) To coordinate services available from other entities who serve eligible students and the families of eligible students;

(6) To assist and support local school districts in providing special education and related services for eligible students;

(7) To support the application of appropriate technology in the education of eligible students;

(8) To contribute to the development and implementation of in-service training, regionally and statewide, which responds to the needs of educators, other professionals and parents pertaining to the needs of eligible students, which include, but are not limited to, high expectations with regard to academic and vocational performance, facilitation of the discussions of Braille instruction during IEP conferences, introduction of appropriate technology, development of blindness skills and daily living skills.

## **2012-13 Numbers**

Technical assistance

Teachers: 100  
Students: 48  
Paras: 26  
Administrators: 112  
Parents: 11  
Others: 3

Evaluations: 11 total

Teachers: 18  
Students: 5  
Paras: 4  
Administrators: 9  
Parents: 8  
Others:

IEP Meetings-4

Teachers: 11  
Students: 4  
Paras: 3  
Administrators: 7  
Parents: 4  
Others:

Workshops- 4 total (cancelled 7 due to lack of enrollment)

Teachers: 76  
Students:  
Paras:  
Administrators:  
Parents: 40  
Others:

Totals:

Teachers: 205  
Students: 57  
Paras: 33  
Administrators: 128  
Parents: 63  
Totals: 486

Districts: North Nodaway, Moberly, Palmyra, Savannah, South Holt, Scotland, Kirksville,  
Raytown, Iron Co C-4, Trenton, Hannibal, Columbia, Chesterfield, Booneville, Warren Co. R-1,

Canton, Higginsville, Liberty, WM R-1, North KC, Renick, Maryville, Princeton, Sturgeon, Knox Co., State Schools, Lewis, Linn, Schuyler

### 2013-14 Numbers

Technical assistance

Teachers: 11

Students: 10

Paras: 8

Administrators: 1

Parents:

Others:

Evaluations: 10 total

Teachers: 11

Students: 4

Paras: 8

Administrators: 1

Parents:

Others:

IEP Meetings- 3 total

Teachers: 10

Students:

Paras:

Administrators: 3

Parents: 3

Others:

Workshops- 1

Teachers: 7

Students:

Paras: 3

Administrators: 2

Parents:

Others:

Total teachers: 39

Total students: 14

Total paras: 19

Administrators: 7

Parents: 3

Total: 82

Districts: South Harrison, South Holt, Knox County, North Nodaway, Tarkio, Hannibal, Moberly, Renick, StJames, Warren County, Springfield

