

Blind Task Force Report  
SW Blindness Skills Specialist- FY12  
August 7, 2012

1. Support local school districts in providing services for students who are blind or visually impaired. The Following school districts have been served in this activity since beginning of FY12: Springfield, Marshfield, Fair Grove, Willard, Logan-Rogersville, Forsyth, Branson, Reed Springs, Spokane, Nixa, Ozark, Mt. Vernon, Carthage, Bethany, Neosho, Buffalo, Bolivar, Clinton, Willow Springs, Mtn. View/Birch Tree, Mtn. Grove, Conway, Lebanon, Laquey, Plato, Waynesville, Thayer, West Plains, Monet, Aurora, Marionville, Verona, Billings, Republic and Clever.
2. Provide time engaged in direct services. The following school districts have been served in this activity since the beginning of FY12: The Following School Districts have been served directly as of Mid FY 12: Mt. Vernon, Nixa, Republic, Mtn View/Birch Tree, Spokane and Reed Springs.
3. Attend IEP meetings at school district request. The following school districts have been served in this activity since the beginning of FY12: Nixa, Ozark, Springfield, Marshfield, Willow Springs, Fair Grove, Republic and Forsyth.
4. Develop in-service trainings: The following trainings and workshops have been completed since beginning of FY12: Designing and Modifying for the Regular Education Teacher- 2 workshops, Role of the Paraprofessional – 1 Workshop, Activity Based Programming for Students with Additional Disabilities – 1 workshop, Community Based Orientation and Mobility for all regional school districts – 25 separate workshops, Family InFunmation Night – 1 event, Southwest Kids in Action – 10 Events, Southwest Vision Professionals group – 9 events. (Community Orientation and Mobility Lessons are an opportunity for teachers and paraprofessionals who are serving the students who are visually impaired to come to SW Missouri for trainings. The teachers travel to the MSU with their students and while the students have O&M training the teachers participate in effective practices meetings related to vision and expanded core curriculum topics presented by the SW BSS).
5. Trends / Issues from district / teacher contacts. Examples of what districts have asked for include the following topics during FY12: Large print, Braille textbooks, where to locate a teacher of the visually impaired, where to locate an Orientation & Mobility instructor, how to serve students with multiple disabilities, assistive technology – hands on exposure and training, how to use a functional vision assessment for educational programming, accommodations for a pre-school environment, preparing an IEP for a VI student, statewide resources available to families with a VI student, one on one mentoring for their VI teacher/O&M Specialist, request in-service training for teachers.
6. Assessment Services. The following school districts were provided Functional Vision Assessments during FY12: Republic, Fair Grove, Reed Springs, Willow Springs, and Mtn. View/Birch Tree. The following districts were provided Orientation and Mobility Assessments directly: Mtn View/Birch Tree, Forsyth, Fair Grove, Willow Springs, and Springfield
7. Provide in-service training for classroom teachers. The Following School Districts have been served in this activity since beginning of FY12: Springfield, Marshfield, Fair Grove, Willard, Logan-Rogersville, Forsyth, Branson, Reed Springs, Spokane, Nixa, Ozark, Mt. Vernon, Carthage, Bethany, Neosho, Buffalo, Bolivar, Clinton, Willow

<b>Provisions Waived Through Approval of Missouri's Request for ESEA Flexibility</b>		
<b>ESEA SECTION<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
<b>STATE-LEVEL RESERVATION FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT</b>		
1003(a)	Requires State educational agency (SEA) to reserve 4 percent of its Title I, Part A allocation for school improvement activities and to distribute at least 95 percent to local educational agencies (LEAs) for use in Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, and restructuring	The reservation is not waived; SEA may distribute section 1003(a) funds to LEAs for use in priority and focus schools
<b>SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS</b>		
1003(g)	Requires SEA to award School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to LEAs with Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring	Waiver permits SEA to award SIG funds to an LEA to implement one of the four SIG models in any priority school
<b>2013–2014 TIMELINE</b>		
1111(b)(2)(E) - (H)	Establishes requirements for setting annual measurable objectives (AMOs)	Waiver permits SEA to set new ambitious but achievable AMOs
<b>ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) DETERMINATIONS</b>		
1116(a)(1)(A), (B) and 1116(c)(1)(A)	Requires SEA and its LEAs to make AYP determinations for LEAs and schools, respectively	
<b>WITHIN-DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS</b>		
1113(a)(3)-(4) and (c)(1)	Requires LEA to rank and serve eligible schools according to poverty and allocate Title I funds to schools in rank order of poverty	Waiver permits LEA to serve with Title I funds a Title I-eligible high school with a graduation rate below 60 percent that the SEA identified as a priority school even if that school does not rank sufficiently high to be served based solely on the school's poverty rate
<b>SCHOOLWIDE POVERTY THRESHOLD</b>		
1114(a)(1)	Requires 40 percent poverty threshold to be eligible to operate a schoolwide program	Waiver permits LEA to operate a schoolwide program in a priority school or a focus school with less than 40 percent poverty that is implementing a schoolwide intervention

<sup>1</sup> The corresponding regulations that implement these statutory provisions are also waived. Any ESEA statutory provision not listed in this table is not waived.

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<b>SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REQUIREMENTS</b>		
1116(b) (except (b)(13))	Requires LEA to identify schools for improvement, corrective action, and restructuring with corresponding requirements	1116(b)(13), which requires LEA to permit a child who has transferred to remain in the choice school through the highest grade in the school, is not waived
<b>LEA IMPROVEMENT REQUIREMENTS</b>		
1116(c)(3) and (5)-(11)	Requires SEA to identify LEAs for improvement and corrective action with corresponding requirements	
1116(e)	Requires SEA and LEAs to take a variety of actions to offer supplemental educational services to eligible students in schools in improvement, corrective action, restructuring	
<b>RESERVATION FOR STATE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM</b>		
1117(b)(1)(B)	Limits the schools that can receive Title I, Part A funds reserved for State awards program	Waiver allows funds reserved for State awards program to go to any reward school
<b>HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER PLAN ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENT REQUIREMENT</b>		
2141(c)	Requires SEA/LEA agreement on use of Title II, Part A funds for LEAs that miss AYP for three years and fail to make progress toward reaching annual objectives for highly qualified teachers	Waiver includes existing agreements and applies to restrictions on hiring paraprofessionals under Title I, Part A
<b>LIMITATIONS ON TRANSFERABILITY OF FUNDS</b>		
6123(a)	Limits to 50 percent the amount an SEA may transfer from a covered program into another covered program or into Title I, Part A	Waiver applies to the percentage limitation, thereby permitting SEA to transfer up to 100 percent from a covered program
6123(b)(1)	Limits to 50 percent or 30 percent the amount an LEA may transfer from a covered program into another covered program or into Title I, Part A	Waiver applies to the percentage limitations as well as to the restrictions on the use of transferred funds
6123(d)	Requires modification of plans and notice of transfer	
6123(e)(1)	Transferred funds are subject to the requirements of the program to which they are transferred	Waiver permits an LEA to exclude funds transferred into Title I, Part A from the base in calculating any set-aside percentages

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<b>RURAL SCHOOLS</b>		
6213(b)	Requires LEAs that fail to make AYP to use funds to carry out the requirements under ESEA section 1116	
6224(e)	Requires SEA to permit LEAs that fail to make AYP to continue to receive a Small, Rural School Achievement grant only if LEA uses funds to carry out ESEA section 1116	
<b>21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS (CCLC)</b>		
4201(b)(1)(A). 4204(b)(2)(A)	Require a community learning center to provide activities during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session	Waiver permits an eligible entity to provide 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC activities to support expanded learning time during an expanded school day, week, or year in addition to activities during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session

Springs, Mtn. View/Birch Tree, Mtn. Grove, Conway, Lebanon, Laquey, Plato, Waynesville, Thayer, West Plains, Monet, Aurora, Marionville, Billings, Republic and Clever. In addition, teachers and other interested parties were provided information about the following program: Missouri Assistive Technology Reimbursement grants, TAP-I program, Missouri School for the Blind, Local and National Braille Resources, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, The Braille Narration Center, Wolfner Library, APH materials center, Seedlings, Lighthouse for the Blind, Camp Barnabas, and other Blindness Skills Specialists offerings throughout the state and web related resources.

8. Provide parents with information and resources. Parents from the following districts were in direct contact with SW BSS or participated in Family Information and workshops during FY12: Springfield, Marshfield, Fair Grove, Willard, Mt. Vernon, Buffalo, Logan-Rogersville, Forsyth, Branson, Reed Springs, Spokane, Nixa, Ozark, Willow Springs, Mt. Vernon, Willow Springs, Mtn. View/Birch Tree, Webb City, Carthage, Joplin, Conway, Lebanon, Aurora and Clever.
9. Provide assistance in reviewing the CTB Braille/large print Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) style guide. The Following was completed in FY 12: Travel to Jefferson City to assist with MAP review LP and Braille for Grades 3-8.
10. Serve as university employee who is full time ACVREP Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist to assist with coordination of O&M Certification program. The SW BSS continues to serve in this capacity at Missouri State University as a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist who is a full time university employee. Activities during FY 12 include: collaborating with ACVREP for certification and re-certification requirements of current and former students, collaborating with local school districts to recruit students for O&M certification program, collaborate with local, regional, state and out of state agencies and school districts for placement of students to complete required internships and practicum's in Orientation and Mobility, assist students with study groups for national exam, assist the university with ensuring students complete necessary graduate school paperwork, admissions criteria, interviewing of potential students and reviewing application files. Provide information to potential candidates and assist with recruitment activities for O&M program. Help manage DESE funded grant for O&M students. Assist with instruction equivalent to 3 graduate credit hours in the blindfold training course throughout June, July and into August. Organize and plan required training by The Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey. Other duties as assigned by faculty in the programs leading to certification in teaching the visually impaired and orientation and mobility at Missouri State University.
11. Upcoming Workshops. Last week had 51 teachers from all over Missouri attend a back to school training for designing and modification of instruction for a student with a visual impairment and role of paraprofessional. Back to School Bash with Lighthouse for the Blind this coming Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>. Made arrangements for Lighthouse for the Blind to travel to Springfield area to meet with families about all the programs available. To date have over 50 people signed up for this activity. Community O&M starts on August 24, 2012 and runs every Friday until December 14, 2012 for this semester. Have 8-10 different SW area districts coming to Missouri State each Friday. SW Vision Professionals group begins meeting later this month. The SW Regional Braille Challenge is scheduled for March 2, 2013 at Missouri State University.

**CONSOLIDATED WORK**

<b>Core Elements</b>	<b>Teacher Standards</b>	<b>What We Have to Draw On</b>	<b>Possible Measures</b>
MO Core Standards and model curriculum	<i>Std 1: Content knowledge aligned with appropriate instruction</i> <i>Std 3: Implementation of curriculum standards</i>	Core standards with model curriculum being developed	100 % of teachers align their work to the MO standards
School Culture	<i>Std2: Student learning, growth and development</i> <i>Std 5: Creating a positive classroom environment for learning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schoolwide-Positive Behavioral Supports (SW-PBS)</li> <li>• Response to Intervention (RtI)</li> <li>• Professional Learning Communities (PLC)</li> </ul>	100% of teachers building positive learning relationships
Collaborative Teaching Teams (CTTs)	<i>Std 9: Professional collaboration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLC</li> <li>• SW-PBS</li> <li>• RtI</li> </ul>	100% of teachers engaged in CTTs at least 2 times per month
Use of data to drive instruction	<i>Std 7: Student assessment and data analysis</i>	Statewide data training— Leadership and Learning Center	100% of CTTs use data each meeting to assess their success
Formative assessments	<i>Std 7: Student assessment and data analysis</i>	--must develop the skills, knowledge and technology for this	100% of CTTs use common formative assessments to guide instructional practice
Effective teaching practices	<i>Std 1: Content knowledge aligned with appropriate instruction</i> <i>Std2: Learning, growth and development</i> <i>Std 4: Teaching for critical thinking</i> <i>Std 7: Assessment and data analysis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible Learning/Teaching— John Hattie</li> <li>• METS videos</li> </ul>	100% of teachers demonstrate high levels of competency in the use of selected effective teaching strategies
High expectations for student learning			

<b>Core Elements</b>	<b>Leader Standards</b>	<b>What we Have to Draw On</b>	<b>Possible Measures</b>
Implementing the core work	Std 2: Teaching and learning Std 3: Management of organizational systems Std 6 (7): Professional Development (6 for Principal & Std 7 for Superintendent)	Mo model teacher / leader/supt evaluation Leadership Academy Administrator Mentor Program	100% of leaders provide (for) the necessary resources (time, personnel, funding) to implementing the core work
Evaluating implementation of the core work	Std 2: Teaching and learning Std 3: Management of organizational systems Std 6 (7): Professional Development (6 for Principal & Std 7 for Superintendent)	Mo model teacher/leader/supt evaluation Leadership Academy Administrator Mentor Program	100% of leaders evaluate the change in adult behaviors as part of the educator evaluation process