

## ***BELIEF STATEMENTS:***

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- All children can learn and we value their individual talents.
- We believe that all children learn best when provided with the appropriate level of specialized instruction and the appropriate educational environment.
- We believe an atmosphere of creativity results in innovative practices and programs.
- Independence is the right and ultimate goal of every student who is blind or visually impaired and we hold ourselves accountable for excellence in preparing students for success.
- NMSBVI is and will remain a 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 through a variety of programs as part of the continuum of services for every child.
- Families and their children who are blind or visually impaired need current information about all aspects of education and transitions.
- Education of individuals who are blind or visually impaired encompasses not only academic skills, but also specialized skills of blindness and visual impairment (the Expanded Core Curriculum) 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 and self-determination.
- Children who are blind or visually impaired should have the ability and the choice to be integrated into their communities.

- The most effective way to teach is through collaboration.
- Although NMSBVI is a specialized, independent educational entity, we work in partnership to serve students who are blind/VI.

## *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 students and promote quality education through collaborative relationships with students, families, and local/state/national partners through outstanding advocacy, training, resources, and support services, thus empowering all students who are blind or visually impaired to become independent, productive members of their communities.

## *Goals*

1. We will support systems that result in sufficient numbers of specialized staff in the field of blindness and visual impairment for the State of New Mexico.
2. We will advance systems 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.
3. We will build, maintain and support systems 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 impairment.

4. We will develop systems that support the early identification as well as successful transitions of students with blindness or visual impairment and their programming across settings.
5. We will develop and maintain relationships and partnerships essential to the success of each student with blindness or visual impairment.
6. NMSBVI will develop systems to document, share, and advance the efficacy of NMSBVI comprehensive practices for educating students with visual impairments using core and expanded core curricula.