

# WHY PARTICIPATE

## ► Benefits for Students and Families





Through the MDE-LIO Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI) Support Team, teachers gain and use best practices in braille, independent living skills, assistive technology, and other areas. The program also increases teacher retention, resulting in consistent instruction throughout a student's education.

## ► Benefits for Districts

Support is provided to teachers for assessments, instructional strategies, and all areas of the expanded core curriculum. In addition to gaining expertise, teachers also learn the Michigan policies, procedures, and practices for evaluating and serving students who are BVI.

Through this support, teachers are more likely to stay in their positions, building teaching continuity and lowering costs related to staff turnover.

## CONTACT

-  517-241-7083
-  [msdb-outreach@michigan.gov](mailto:msdb-outreach@michigan.gov)
-  [mdelio.org](http://mdelio.org)
-  [facebook.com/mdelio.social](https://facebook.com/mdelio.social)



Michigan Department of Education  
Low Incidence Outreach



## MDE-LIO BVI SUPPORT TEAM

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# WHAT IS THE SUPPORT TEAM?

The Michigan Department of Education – Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) provides support for novice teachers and teacher consultants of students who are visually impaired (TVIs/TCVIs) and certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS). This program is provided at no cost to districts or individuals.

Each novice TVI, TCVI, or COMS is paired with an experienced Support Team member for up to two years. Team members offer the following support:

- conducting evaluations
- providing direct instruction and consultation
- teaching the expanded core curriculum
- scheduling daily plans and keeping records

Participants also receive:

- professional development tools
- informal observations and feedback
- networking opportunities

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

MDE-LIO will support TVIs, TCVIs, and COMS who are currently working in Michigan schools and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- first year TVI/TCVI or COMS
- recently transferred from another state
- recently returned to the VI field after more than five years
- student in the VI Consortium for Teacher Preparation who has been placed in a TVI/TCVI role
- TCVI who recently completed work to become a COMS and is now in that role



# HOW TO SIGN UP

1. Visit [bit.ly/LIOSupportTeam](https://bit.ly/LIOSupportTeam).
2. Fill out and sign the New TVI/TCVI and O&M Specialist Support Request Form.
3. Email the form to Lynn Pensari at [pensaril1@michigan.gov](mailto:pensaril1@michigan.gov).
4. MDE-LIO will approve or deny the request.
  - If the request is approved, the requester's administrator will be required to sign and submit a separate approval form.
  - The requester will then be paired with a Support Team member.

# TEAM MEMBERS

The MDE-LIO Support Team includes experienced TVIs, TCVIs, and COMS in Michigan. MDE-LIO has vetted each member based on a specific set of criteria to ensure quality support.