



Monday, August 5 and Tuesday, August 6, 2024
DMACC – FFA Enrichment Center
1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, IA 50023

Registration: Link for registration can be found at the end of this document.

Monday Check-In 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Important Notes for Iowa Educators/Professionals:

- If you are taking this for license renewal credit, you will need to attend the late session on Monday August 5th at 4:15 - 6:15 p.m.
- Handouts will **not** be printed or distributed at the event. Links to handouts will be provided after registration. If you would like physical copies, you will need to print them and bring them along.
- A \$100 per day travel stipend will be available for AEA and LEA professionals living **50 miles or more outside the event area and who have identified the name of the student with visual impairments they will be serving during the 2024-25 school year. In addition, you must attend both days – all day to receive the stipend.** A \$100 per day participation stipend will be available for IESBVI staff.
- There is no stipend for any AEA or LEA staff living within 50 miles of the event nor for those who have not identified the name of the student who is visually impaired that they are serving during the 2024-25 school year.
- Stipend checks will be mailed after the completion of Summer Institute. Checks will not be available at the conference site.
- Morning and afternoon sessions are limited. All session seats are on a “first come, first served” basis, so register early. There is no limit for the late Monday session. Please plan to attend only the sessions for which you are registered.
- There are sessions of varying lengths from which to choose.
- Deadline to register - June 28th, 2024.

Credit Information:

License renewal credit and ACVREP credit are being offered for this course. We are not offering graduate credit this year. Information regarding license renewal credit through Heartland AEA will be available on the first day of training. You are required to attend the late Monday session 4:15 - 6:15 p.m. if you want credit. Participants seeking credit will need to ensure they have registered for and attended 15 hours of session time during the two-day conference. **NOTE: You will not be able to register for credit until the first day of 2024 IESBVI Summer Institute.**

Room Reservations:

A limited block of rooms has been set aside for those needing overnight stays. The hotel is the Comfort Inn & Suites, 1625 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Link to hotel registration: [Comfort Inn & Suites Reservation](#) **OR** call to request a room under the IESBVI Conference block. Their number is (515) 440-3679. Rooms must be reserved by July 15, 2024.

2024 IESBVI Summer Institute

Session Descriptions and Information

Monday, August 5, 2024 - Opening and The Expanded Core Curriculum: What is it and Why do I Need to Know About it? - Katy Ring (8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - all attendees)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday 8:30. to 9:30 a.m.	All	All

This opening session will cover the basics of the Expanded Core Curriculum and why every educator and family member of students with visual impairments should know what it is. (50+)

Monday, August 5, 2024 - Morning

Access for Low Vision – Chad Brown and Brandon Schellhorn (2.25 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, TVIs/OMS	Elementary, middle, and high school students with low vision who are able to utilize tools for a specific function

This session is designed to share the numerous low-tech and high-tech options that may help students with low vision access print in areas of living, learning, and working. The session will explore low tech devices such as lighting, slant boards, stand magnifiers, handheld magnifiers, and distance magnifiers. The session will explore high tech devices such as handheld electronic magnifiers, CCTVs, accessibility options on computers/tablets/smartphones, as well as briefly exploring apps. (24)

Beginning Braille: Scholar Course – Beth Pieters (2.25 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Paraeducators and those interested in getting started with braille	New braille readers at any age

This course will introduce and help you learn the uncontracted (grade 1) braille code using fun activities and games. This will be a great beginning to your love of braille! (24)

Functional Vision/Learning Media Assessment (FVLMA): What Every Educator Should Know About This Very Important Assessment. - Katy Ring (2.25 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	All	This session addresses any student with a visual impairment.

This session will cover the basics of the Functional Vision and Learning Media Assessment. This assessment is completed for every student with a visual impairment in Iowa. The assessment is completed by the Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI). We will cover the basic pieces of this assessment and how any educator working with students can use this assessment to plan for instruction. (60)

Multiply Impaired-Visually Impaired (MIVI) Basics – Sarah Harms (2.25 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, OT, PT, SLP	Students who are visually impaired with additional disabilities; students who are deafblind.

This session will cover effective classroom practices for students who have multiple disabilities including visual impairment and deaf blindness (MIVI). This is an introductory session into the strategies and steps a team can take to build educational programming for a student who is MIVI. This will include building relationships, calendar systems, instructional routines, active learning, experience-based literacy and more! The session will also provide additional resources for continuous learning. (25)

Monday, August 5, 2024 - Early Afternoon

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) for All Ages and Stages – Deena Recker and Kyle Blackford (2.25 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	All	All

Orientation and Mobility? WHAT? Come explore the exciting world of O&M as we look at how to develop these much-needed skills in all children, regardless of age or other impairments. (50)

All Kinds of Apps – Brandon Schellhorn with Chad Brown (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 12:45 to 2:15 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessional, TVIs/OMS	Students with low vision who are able to independently operate a smartphone or tablet.

This session will explore a wide variety of apps, which can be used on smartphones and tablets, that can help students with low vision access print in areas of living, learning, and working. The types of apps will include access to distance print, access to near print, book readers, math, writing, text to speech, and more! (16)

Developing Communication Systems for Children with Complex Communication Needs: Maybe it is Rocket Science - Cynthia Friederick and Jenny Springer (3 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 12:45 to 4:00 p.m.	Special education teachers and paraprofessionals, SLP, OT, PT, TODHH, and AEA or LEA staff serving children with complex communication needs	This session will focus on the needs of developing, transitioning, and maintaining communication systems for children with complex disabilities including deafblindness

This working session will focus on the challenges and successes of developing communication systems for children with complex disabilities and growing those systems over time. Presenters will share experiences and examples of their journey developing communication systems for this population of children. We will discuss the use of assessments to determine access, communicative level, and common communicative forms (tactile symbols, pictures, touch cues, gestures,) applied within the context of trusting relationships and instructional topics that create meaning. Then participants will review their student's current communication system, consider questions, and begin an instructional routine to support communication. Turns out it might be a little like rocket science – come join us! (32)

Early Childhood Panel Discussion – Deena Recker, Carrie Spellmeyer, and others (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 12:45 to 2:15 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, AEA psychologists, LEA administrators, teachers of the visually impaired	Early childhood

Panel discussion for educational team members to gain information about how vision services are provided for children who are ages birth - 3 years old and as a child may move into the school system at ages 3-5. (50)

Elementary Math Materials and Strategies Scavenger Hunt – Sara Larkin (3 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 12:45 to 4:00 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA staff, LEA administrators	Academic visually impaired with no additional disabilities

Factors and multiples, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, graphing and functions, geometry, and statistics, Oh My! Get ready to SEE what this LOOKS like for students at the secondary level who use braille! This session will include information about the different types of accessible scientific and graphing calculators available such as Desmos. It will also share easy ways to convert all of those pictures in math to a tactual format, especially for algebra and geometry concepts. Let's take a glimpse at some of the products and tools that can be used to teach math to students who read braille. (50)

Monday, August 5, 2024 - Early Afternoon continued

Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) Exploratorium: Enhancing Learning with Hands-on ECC Kits - Crystal Beighley and Susan Rolinger (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 12:45 to 2:15 p.m.	All	All

Explore the extensive range of Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) Kits and supplemental materials from our IESBVI Vision Resource Center. This session will guide participants through hands-on activities, demonstrating the use of these innovative resources in enhancing the educational experiences of visually impaired students across the nine areas of the ECC. Attendees will trial kits to enhance their teaching practices, with an emphasis on tailoring approaches to meet individual student needs. Crystal and Susan will explain the process of identifying needs, requesting materials, and equipment deliveries/returns. This interactive session allows participants the opportunity to provide feedback and share ideas for future development of the IESBVI Expanded Learning Program equipment kit collection. (24)

Monday, August 5, 2024 - Late Afternoon

Braille Sense 6 – Chad Brown (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.	All	Elementary, middle school, high school, academic visually impaired with no additional disabilities.

Do you have a student who uses a Braille Sense 6? Come and chat with Chad about all the wonderful possibilities of this device. (10)

Discovering Adaptive Sports and NCASB - Crystal Beighley (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.	All	All students who are visually impaired

This session will give an introduction to Adaptive Sports for students with blindness and visual impairment. There will also be a demonstration of different adaptive sport items available for check out from the Vision Resource Center. Resources will also be shared about NCASB- North Central Association of Schools for the Blind which provides competitive sport opportunities for students with blindness and visual impairment. Attendees will then have a hands-on learning experience by exploring elements of Goalball and Beep baseball. To wrap up, attendees will discuss practical applications within the setting of their jobs. (30)

When You Have a Student with a Visual Impairment in Your Classroom: Academic Students – Emma Eaton (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA staff, administrators	All ages: students who have no additional disabilities, other than a visual impairment, or other disabilities with mild impact

The purpose of this session will be to learn about what to do when you are working with a student who is visually impaired in the classroom. The session will discuss various types of environmental, curriculum, and instructional adaptations a student may need, identify roles of team members, highlight the importance of being proactive, and explore assistive technology. (25)

Monday Evening Credit Session (optional for non-credit attendees):

Literacy and Math Make & Take and More – Sara Larkin and Beth Pieters (2 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Monday, 4:15 to 6:15 p.m.	General and special education teachers, AEA staff, paraeducators and teachers of the visually impaired, administrators	Choices address a variety of needs and levels

Are you wondering how you can take something you usually do and make it accessible for a student who is blind or visually impaired? This is your chance to adapt some literacy and math materials that are related to common concepts taught in the classroom and leave with something you can use with your student. We will have a variety of choices for you to pick from so you can decide what best fits your needs. (50+)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - Early Morning

Braille Sense 6 (duplicate/second session) – Chad Brown (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	All	Elementary, middle school, high school, academic visually impaired with no additional disabilities.

Do you have a student who uses a Braille Sense 6? Come and chat with Chad about all the wonderful possibilities of this device. (10)

Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI): What is It and What Do I Need to Know About It? – Chelsie Engelbart and Cynthia Friederick (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	Special education teachers and paraprofessionals, SLP, OT, PT, TODHH, and AEA or LEA staff serving children with brain-based learning challenges	This session will address the needs of students with CVI or with a brain-based learning disability that affects visual processing.

Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) is a brain based visual impairment and the most common, rapidly growing cause of blindness and low vision for children in Iowa and the United States. Children with CVI have unique, diverse challenges discriminating, recognizing, and identifying visual targets. This introductory session will focus on understanding the visual behaviors associated with CVI and how to promote access to learning. Including what to do if you suspect a child has CVI, what is the CVI Functional Vision Assessment (FVA) and some top on-line resources. Come join us for the discussion as the understanding of CVI continues to evolve! (50)

Empowering Accessibility: Materials Sources for Blind and Low Vision Students – Beth Pieters (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA Staff and administrators	All ages from birth to graduation.

Join us in exploring the comprehensive range of materials and resources provided by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) tailored to support students across their educational journey. Discover a wealth of accessible materials designed to enhance classroom engagement and academic success for blind and low vision learners. Through hands-on exploration and guidance, participants will gain insights into utilizing APH materials effectively to create inclusive learning environments, empowering every student to thrive. (50)

Learning and Supporting the Nemeth Braille Code – Sara Larkin (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA staff, administrators	Students from early childhood through high school who use braille for math.

Are you going to have a student who uses braille in math class this year? The Nemeth Code is the braille code that has all of the special symbols used in math and science. Participants will have a chance to learn the basics of the Nemeth Code while having some fun along the way. This will include resources for looking up Nemeth symbols, ways to practice the Nemeth code, and reference sheets you can use when working with your students this school year. **Please bring a computer with you, if possible.** (24)

When You Have a Student with a Visual Impairment in Your Classroom: Students with Multiple Disabilities – Carrie Spellmeyer (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA staff, administrators	All ages: students who have significant additional disabilities in addition to a visual impairment

The purpose of this session will be to learn about what to do when you are working with a student who is visually impaired in the classroom. The session will discuss various types of environmental, curriculum, and instructional adaptations a student may need, identify roles of team members, highlight the importance of being proactive, and explore assistive tech. (25)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - Late Morning

Blindness Assistive Technology – Chad Brown (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.	All	All

Have you ever wondered how someone who is blind completes tasks on an everyday basis? Come chat with Chad to learn about this and also hear some great stories. (32)

Finding a Path Forward for Multiply Impaired Students: Person-Centered Planning – Deena Recker (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, AEA psychologists, LEA administrators, teachers of the visually impaired, anyone	Multiple impaired, all ages since many of these services will need to be set up with children in elementary school.

Have you ever felt like you're stuck when considering the areas of Living, Learning and Working with a family of a student with multiple impairments, some severe? It can be frustrating to see the potential in the student while seeing the challenges which lay ahead for the student, the family, care providers, employers, and Vocational Rehabilitation, along with the myriad of agencies who may be able to provide assistance. Let's find a path forward! Using the principles of Person-Centered Planning, we will look at the whole situation, with all parties involved, to find movement toward a bright pathway. (32)

Materials to Support Science Content (and Some Computer Science!) – Jennifer Bliss (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.	Science or computer science teachers, special educators, TVIs and para educators	K-12 students in regular science classrooms with an emphasis on braille readers

There are multitudes of adapted materials for science content available--don't reinvent the wheel! Materials from the American Printing House and other vendors as well will be presented with many available for hands-on examination. Some computer science options will be presented as well. (32)

Middle School and High School Math Instruction for Students Who Use Braille – Sara Larkin (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA staff, LEA administrators	Academic visually impaired students with no additional disabilities who use braille

Factors and multiples, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, graphing and functions, geometry, and statistics, Oh My! Get ready to SEE what this LOOKS like for students at the secondary level who use braille! This session will include information about the different types of accessible scientific and graphing calculators available such as Desmos. It will also share easy ways to convert all of those pictures in math to a tactual format, especially for algebra and geometry concepts. Let's take a glimpse of some of the products and tools that can be used to teach math to students who read braille. (32)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - Late Morning continued

Using the Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment Functional Vision Assessment and the Learning Media Assessment (CVI FVLMA) to Support Access to Instruction – Chelsie Engelbart and Cynthia Friederick (1.5 hrs)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.	Special education teachers and paraprofessionals, SLP, OT, PT, TODHH, and AEA or LEA staff serving children with brain-based learning challenges	This session will address the needs of students with Cerebral/Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) or a brain-based learning disability that affects visual processing.

During this working session participants will develop an understanding of how their student is impacted by CVI, applying the Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment Functional Vision Assessment and Learning Media Assessment to educational activities, including communication systems and social interactions. Participants will review their student's most current CVI FVLMA and draft potential accommodations for prioritized educational activities, communication systems, and learning environments. Information about the impact of Orientation and Mobility (O&M) will be included. (50)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - Early Afternoon

Adaptive Strategies and Fine Motor Strategies for Students with Visual Impairments - Brandie Cox (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.	Teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA staff, LEA administrators	PK-21-year-old students

This session will focus on understanding the basic development of hand skills and strategies to increase independence with activities of daily living for students with vision impairments. (32)

Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology Program - Kim Chance (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA staff, LEA, administrators	All

The Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology Program serves statewide, offering individuals an opportunity to learn about and trial Assistive Technology that meets their individual needs. This session will offer the attendees awareness of our services, referrals, and a hands-on demonstration of devices. (32)

Labs and Measurement in Science – Jennifer Bliss (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.	General education and special education teachers, teachers of the visually impaired, para educators	Grades 5-12 students with significant vision loss (emphasis on tactile learners) who are in the regular science classroom.

Learn about tools and strategies that encourage a student who is visually impaired to participate actively in science activities. This session will provide an overview and hands-on practice with adapted tools for measuring distance, solid and liquid volume, and mass. (24)

Preparing for Independence on the Road of Life - Sasha Rindone and Stacey Telgren (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.	Anyone who works with blind or visually impaired students.	We both work with young adults, but the information will benefit all blind and visually impaired students no matter what the age.

In this session, we will look at the destination point, adulthood, for those who are blind or visually impaired. What skills are necessary to pack along the route to adulthood? How can these skills be reinforced in everyday life, during the school day, in extracurricular activities etc.? Can a blind/low vision student really move along the road of life independently? What does independence look like for the students we work with? (50)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - Early Afternoon continued

Teaching the Whole child: Supporting Blind and Visually Impaired Learners with Unmet Sensory Needs – Cynthia Friederick and Marissa Hirschman (1.5 hrs)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.	All direct providers	Blind and visually impaired students with unmet sensory needs, may have additional disabilities

Do you work with a blind or visually impaired student who engages in self-stimulating behaviors? These behaviors could include repetitive rocking, hand flapping, or exploring objects with the mouth. Often these behaviors stem from unmet sensory needs or a lack of access to the same experiences as typically developing peers. Based on the Ready Bodies Learning Minds Course by Athena Oden, this session will provide teachers and service providers information on why students may be engaging in these behaviors, as well as strategies to support learners in getting their sensory needs met. (25)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - Late Afternoon

Accessibility for Learning Management Systems (LMS) and Documents: What Really Works! – Jennifer Bliss, Chad Brown, and Sara Larkin (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 2:15. to 3:45 p.m.	General education teacher, special education teacher, paraprofessional, AEA staff, LEA administrators	Academic visually impaired with no additional disabilities

As schools utilize computer-based materials, accessibility is often a challenge. This session will discuss some of the impacts around accessing visual, auditory, or tactile information. The strategies used can significantly influence students' ability to grasp content effectively. Let's examine effective and ineffective approaches to crafting accessible content. Often, even minor adjustments can yield substantial improvements in what really works. (50)

Instructional Strategies: Birth to 3 Early Childhood - Harms (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 2:15 to 3:45 p.m.	Early Interventionists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and any other providers within Early ACCESS working with a child who is blind or visually impaired	Ages birth to three

The first three years of a child's life are very important as they are the building blocks for growth and development. Children with visual impairments or blindness need specific strategies and modifications to allow them to best explore their environment. This session will dive into how visual impairments impact exploration and play for children ages birth to three. We will discuss instructional strategies and activities that families and professionals can use to meet the unique learning needs of children who are visually impaired. (30)

Literacy, Math, and Skill-based Routines for Students with Multiple Impairments – Jenny Springer (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 2:15 to 3:45 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA staff, administrators	Pre-K-12th grade students with multiple impairments

This session will walk participants through the steps for diagnosing, designing, and delivering literacy, math, and skill-based instructional routines for students with multiple impairments including vision impairments. Participants will learn to utilize student interests to increase interaction and engagement skills within the context of meaningful and structured routines. (32)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - Late Afternoon continued

Promoting Positive Social Skills – Chelsie Engelbart and Beth Pieters (1.5 hrs)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 2:15 to 3:45 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals	Early childhood and elementary

Children with visual impairments miss out on so much socially and what is happening in the world around them. Learn how you can change this in your classroom and school by learning the necessary skills and interventions to help promote social emotional development in your students at an early age. This will include strategies for tactile considerations around language development, self-regulation skills, joint attention, emotional literacy, and how to teach social interaction skills. (25)

The Working Student – Deena Recker and Sarah Wiberg (1.5 hrs.)

Date & Time	Target Audience	Students Addressed
Tuesday, 2:15 to 3:45 p.m.	General education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, AEA psychologists, LEA administrators	High school students who are visually impaired in academic programs with no additional disabilities and students who are visually impaired with additional disabilities.

Do you have a student who needs a job, but you don't know how to begin? Learn how to support students who are blind or visually impaired transition to integrated, competitive employment. Gather ideas to guide students along their journey to long term success in the workplace. Come and join the working conversation! (50)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - Closing and Wrap up - Katy Ring (3:45 - 4:30 p.m. - all attendees Room 107)

To Register:

Complete online Registration at:

[2024 IESBVI Summer Institute Registration Link](#)

If you need a paper copy of the registration,
please contact Sheryl Thomsen at
Sheryl.Thomsen@iaedb.org