



What is the Expanded Core Curriculum?

Vision Mentorship Program | Outreach Access Services

The ECC is comprised of 9 skill areas, beyond the school learnings in the academic core, that need to be considered for each of our students. These are either specialized skills that help a child compensate for the loss of vision, or are ordinary skills that most other children are able to learn just by watching others and being involved in activities at their age or developmental level.

Our students, those with blindness, those with low vision, and those with complex multiple disabilities are capable of learning in all of these areas; but cannot easily watch and learn, imitate and do, develop preferences and interests based on observation.

Assessment in ECC areas helps us prioritize which skills to teach, when and how to teach them, and best to partner with. It does take a team to help students gain competence at home, in the community, and at school.

TSVI's lead this assessment and instruction because we are the team members who understands the impact of vision loss on learning in all areas (not just academics).

The 9 areas of the ECC are:

- **Assistive Technology**
 - Devices, services, and instruction to help students access information and communication
 - Includes high tech (example screen readers, notetakers, electronic magnification) and low tech (abacus, braille, optical devices)
- **Career Education**
 - Provides students, from a very early age, with hands on experience with jobs they can't observe from a distance
 - Provides instruction in work related skills: being on time, staying on task

- **Compensatory Skills**
 - Those skills necessary for accessing the academic core: access to print (large print, braille, audio formats), tactile graphics, object symbols, tactile symbols
- **Independent Living Skills**
 - Those skills people do in daily life to care for themselves and contribute to the upkeep of their home.
 - Including cooking, eating, hygiene, dressing, clothing care and more!
- **Orientation & Mobility (O&M)**
 - Knowledge and skills that allow a person to travel as safely and independently as possible
 - Starting with body image for a young child to the skills allowing an individual to complete complex international travel without vision!
- **Recreation and Leisure**
 - Skills in physical recreation and leisure activities and preferences
 - Group and individual activities
- **Self Determination**
 - Includes decision-making, problem solving, choice making, assertiveness, goal setting, and becoming an effective self-advocate.
- **Sensory Efficiency**
 - includes instruction in the use of vision, hearing, smell, touch, and taste. It also helps address the development of kinesthetic, proprioceptive, and vestibular systems.
 - Learning to use senses efficiently
- **Social Skills**
 - Social interaction skills include awareness of gestures, facial expressions, body language, and personal space.
 - It could include learning about sarcasm, finding out about how to detect if someone is flirting, or for a young child, learning that their actions are being observed, or how to show interest in someone else's topic of conversation, or how to join a game.

Updated 10-26-23