



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
Established 1922
"Celebrating our past and empowering our future"

Richard L. Mitchell
Commissioner

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DBVI's Mission Statement: The mission of the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) is to provide services and resources which empower individuals who are blind, vision impaired or deafblind to achieve their desired levels of employment, education, and personal independence.

Vision Statement: DBVI envisions a world in which individuals who are blind, vision impaired or deafblind can access all that society has to offer and can, in turn, contribute to the greater community. We believe this is achievable.

There are six regional offices across the Commonwealth of Virginia: Bristol, Fairfax, Norfolk, Richmond, Roanoke, and Staunton. The Headquarters Office is located in Richmond VA, as is the Library/Resource Center and the Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired. Consumers are encouraged to sign up for agency emails, announcements, and updates on the DBVI website. Referrals and inquiries may be received via regional office contact or website submission.

DBVI provides programming to empower individuals of all ages: Education Services, Pre-Employment Transition Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling, Orientation and Mobility Training, and Rehabilitation Teaching.

Education Coordinators are located in each DBVI Regional Office. Education Coordinators are available to provide consultation and guidance for children with blindness/vision impairments, ages birth through 22 years old.

DBVI Education Services consultation and guidance may include:

- Participation as a cooperating state agency to facilitate access to developmental / educational programming as appropriate.
- Collaboration with early intervention teams to provide consultation regarding understanding of vision loss and or blindness.

- Access to resources for use of the family and early intervention team to support recommended strategies
- Connections to community and family networks, events, support groups and literacy resources. Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired/VICC
- Professional development opportunities pertaining to vision loss and its impact on development.
- Support to teams and family members during the transition process (from early intervention). Being an informed member of the transition process assists school systems in planning for contracted service providers for the upcoming school year. Information provided to families considering private placements v. school system supports informed decision processes.
- Upcoming community events – White Cane Awareness Day on October 15th.