

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED	No. 513 SUBJECT: Expanded Core Curriculum
Effective date: 31 October 2002 Revised: 9/6/12	Replaces: Independent Living Skills
Distribution: All NMSBVI Staff	Kind: Board Policy

I. PURPOSE

The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired recognizes the importance of preparing its students for adult life. In addition to the core curriculum taught to all students in New Mexico, NMSBVI utilizes the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) to provide additional instruction for all students. The ECC is used as a framework for assessing students, planning individual goals and providing instruction in the following areas:

- 1) Compensatory or functional academic skills including communication modes
- 2) Orientation and mobility
- 3) Social interaction skills
- 4) Independent living skills
- 5) Recreation and leisure skills
- 6) Career education
- 7) Use of assistive technology
- 8) Sensory efficiency skills
- 9) Self-determination

II. GENERAL POLICY

All students of NMSBVI are expected to function with the greatest degree of independence possible both on and off campus. To ensure that students have the opportunity to maximize their learning in all areas of blindness specific education, the following practices will be used.

- 1) Birth-3 Family/Infant/Toddler Program:
 - a) All children will receive appropriate assessment in the Expanded Core Curriculum.
 - b) Families will receive information and support to implement the ECC in their homes.
- 2) NMSBVI Preschool/Kindergarten Programs:
 - a) In addition to the core curriculum of instruction, all children placed in an NMSBVI Preschool Program will receive assessment and programming related to the ECC.
 - b) Parents will receive data on their child's ECC progress as well as their academic progress.
 - c) Parents will receive information and on-going support from NMSBVI teachers to help families implement practices in their homes that lead to independence for their children.
- 3) Residential Program:
 - a) At the time of admission, the IEP committee will identify the core areas of blindness education that will become the focus areas while the student is placed on the campus.
 - b) All students will receive appropriate assessment in the Expanded Core Curriculum areas in addition to academic and related services assessment.

- c) All students will participate in Expanded Core Curriculum instruction during their placement.
- d) Secondary education students are required to enter a simulated, supervised Apartment Living Experience in the dormitory. Seniors participate in a cottage-based independent living program.
- e) NMSBVI will ensure that instruction in the expanded core content will extend throughout the student's day and evening.
- f) NMSBVI staff will structure the residential placement for each student so that all staff can reinforce ECC skills specific to the student. All staff will assume shared responsibility for supporting the increase of independence for all of its students.
- g) NMSBVI will provide opportunities for a student's family and school district to learn more about their child's increasing independence before the student transitions back to their home and community.