



Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

WCBVI Outreach is now offering Virtual Individual Short Course programming, with limited spaces available. Individual Short Courses allow for students to have an opportunity to dig deeper into areas of the [Expanded Core Curriculum](#) that they are addressing through current IEP goals, but may need extra support via supplementary intensive instruction that is not typically needed in their special education program. Short Courses are not intended to replace special education services, they are designed to enhance these services. This fall, the WCBVI Short Course team is offering limited programming slots, of up to, five, two-hour sessions per student.

An IEP team may not consider a Short Course as a manner of providing Compensatory or Additional Services Special Education minutes, as we are not IEP team members and cannot provide specially designed instructional minutes. Additionally, Short Courses are not held over the summer months. WCBVI offers a variety of non-IEP driven programming over the summer months for students who are blind or visually impaired.

Scenarios of possible Individual Short Course programming need:

- A student recently began using a new piece of assistive technology and needs extra instruction on how to efficiently use it
- A student recently lost their vision and needs a jump start on learning braille and orientation and mobility skills
- A student will be participating in a work experience in their home community and will need to take the bus, but the student is not comfortable taking the bus and would benefit from several lessons over the course of several days
- A student will be participating in a home economics course and needs intensive instruction in the area of Daily Living Skills so they are able to participate at the same time as their peers

At this point in time, the WCBVI Short Course team is ***only offering Individual Short Courses virtually***. The Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired will evaluate logistical needs of students, such as access to equipment and wi-fi on a case-by-case basis and will work collaboratively with the LEA regarding current instructional use of technology.

We will work with your team to determine programming times. Optimal times to consider may be during a study hall or during a class that a student has a strong grasp on the content and missing some of the sessions would not negatively impact the student's



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education. As always, when a student attends any Short Course programming, teams must consider potential positive and negative implications of missing school to participate.

IEP teams contemplating an Individual Short Course should consider the following before referring a student for a virtual program:

- Will the student need the additional support of an adult to access the instruction?
- Will the student have success working with a new instructor for a short period of time?
- Can the IEP goal be addressed safely and effectively through virtual instruction?
- Will the student need to learn new skills to access virtual learning through Google Classroom/Google Meets?

Ready to learn more? Please fill out our [interest form](#)!

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Meghan Fredel at 608-758-4926 or meghan.fredel@wcbvi.k12.wi.us. Feel free to visit our website at: <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/short-courses/>