

Admission

- Children must have a visual impairment or blindness to be admitted to NMSBVI (corrected vision of 20/200, legally blind, 10 percent field cut)
- All children who qualify are accepted, there is no wait list
- Classes are about 6-8 students
- Teachers and educational assistants must meet ratios (1:3)
- The school operates under a push-in model of services

Funding

- All funding for NMSBVI comes from the state of New Mexico
- Funding is under the higher education department
- Land grant school that receives funds through the NM land trust
- Funding covers staff salaries, residency program, student services and materials, and mileage reimbursement for families (no bussing is provided)
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New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

NMSBVI was founded in 1903 and serves children with visual impairments from all over New Mexico. Campuses are located in Albuquerque and Alamogordo.

Goals:

- Create a training system that results in sufficient numbers of specialized staff in the field of visual impairment
- Develop a system that supports the successful transition of students with visual impairment and their programming across settings
- Acquire community support and the resources essential to advance the success of each student with blindness or visual impairment.
- Help students with visual impairments become as independent as possible, self-advocate, and share knowledge with others

Program:

- Birth to three home visiting program
- Preschool programs located in Albuquerque and Alamogordo
- School age programs located in Alamogordo. Residential programming is available.

Services

- Children enrolled in the preschool or school-age program at NMSBVI can receive all special education services on campus
- These services may include orientation and mobility, speech-language pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work
- Students are taught by a certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI)
- Services are provided through a push-in model--related service providers go into the classroom to provide therapies, rather than pull children out of the classroom

Community Involvement

- Partnership with UNM to bring in students who are studying to be doctors or related service providers
- Provides funding for teachers to complete requirements to become a certified TVI
- Community education
- Pre-covid brought students into general education preschool classrooms