

Tennessee Visual Impairments Virtual Academy (TN VIVA) Spring Events 2026

TN VIVA is a professional development learning series for school educators, community stakeholders, and families looking to learn about best practices, supports, and resources for students with visual impairments (blindness, low vision, and deafblindness).

Series Sponsors

- Tennessee School for the Blind
- Peabody College's Program in Visual Disabilities
- Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Monthly Professional
Development &
Resource Meetings
for VI Professionals
in Tennessee

Attendees can earn
ACVREP credits or
a general certificate
of attendance
to use towards
renewal of their
teaching license

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Formerly known
as Unity Virtual
Academy

TN VIVA TENNESSEE
VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS
VIRTUAL ACADEMY

JANUARY 14, 6-7 PM

INSPIRE Academy Summer Program for College and Career Readiness

Tennessee School for the Blind held a highly successful inaugural INSPIRE Academy summer program in June 2025. Join us to learn about the program that is designed to support students' College and Career Readiness. INSPIRE instructors will share about big picture educational priorities for high school students preparing to transition to college and the workplace as well as how INSPIRE is designed to provide specific experiences that address Expanded Core Curriculum skills our students need to enjoy success in those pursuits.

JANUARY 16, 12:30-2:30 PM

TN COVE Winter Meeting

Topics for Discussion: To be announced!

FEBRUARY 3, 9-10 A.M.

NRTC Essentials: Research, Resources, and Tools to Strengthen Your Practice

Presenter: Dr. Stephanie Welch-Grenier
This session emphasizes strategies for integrating National Research and Training Center (NRTC) resources into service delivery and decision-making to improve outcomes.

MARCH 4, 10-11 AM

Collaborative Assessment: How Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Orientation & Mobility Specialists Work Together

Presenters: Anita Henderson, M.Ed., CTVI, COMS & Virginia Burkhart, M.Ed., CTVI, & CLVT
This session will highlight how Vision Specialists/ Teachers of the Visually Impaired (CTVIs) and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS) collaborate to assess the unique needs of students with visual impairments. Participants will learn how the combined expertise of both professionals provides a comprehensive understanding of each student's functional vision, mobility, and learning needs, leading to more accurate evaluations and individualized educational planning.

All sessions Central Time (CT)