

# Teachers of Children with Visual Impairments for Underserved

US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

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**Purpose:** The critical shortage of teachers of students with visual impairments (TVIs) is well-documented and has been a chronic problem for school systems, especially in rural areas of the country. In response to the documented critical national shortage, Portland State University will shift its delivery services to a distance-learning model, in order to provide states without teacher preparation programs and individuals without access to a local program the ability to access quality training, thus alleviating shortages of qualified staff.

**Method:** Portland State University's distance learning model consists of a required eight-week summer session on campus, Web-based and CD- ROM instruction, shared Web resources with other university programs, and on site supervision and mentoring in the students' home communities.