

THE ECC NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 - JULY 2022



Students with Visual Impairments in Middle & High School

What is the ECC? (Expanded Core Curriculum)

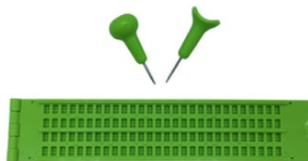
The ECC is a framework developed to teach students with visual impairments the techniques and skills needed to access and master the general core curriculum expected for all students.

The ECC will enable your child to become a successful student. It will also enable your child to work and live independently. To increase success from the ECC, steps must be taken early in your child's life.

The ECC encompass 9 areas, each one is as important as the others, and are taught by a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) and an Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS).

How each area of the ECC
will contribute to your child's success
in school and beyond?

Compensatory Access



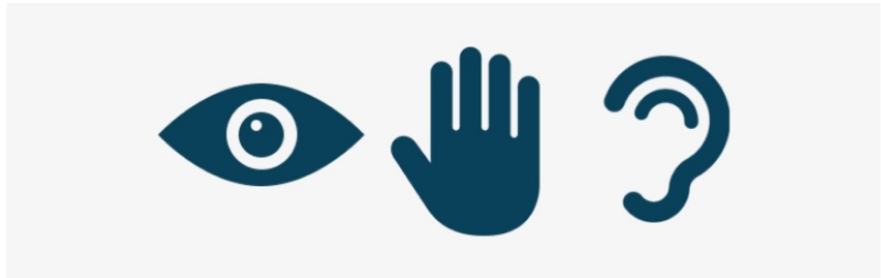
This area will be critical for your child for ensuring access to academic learning and information about the world, to be able to communicate, and to be literate and successful in school.

This area will teach your child techniques to access information, write and communicate, use braille, audio or large print.

This area will teach your child methods to address others in conversations and comprehend what is said.

This area will teach your child how to use adapted and specialized educational materials.

Sensory Efficiency



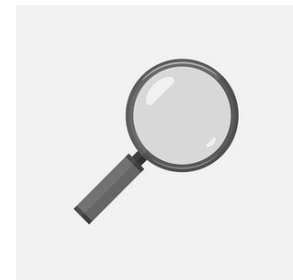
This area will develop the ability of your child to process information and stimuli.

This area will help your child develop his/her tactile discrimination.

This area will help your child use his/her visual, auditory and tactile senses to access information.

This area will help your child develop all his/her senses at their maximum.

Assistive Technology



This area will allow your child to have access to printed information, and to communicate.

This area will increase, maintain, or improve the functional capacities of your child.

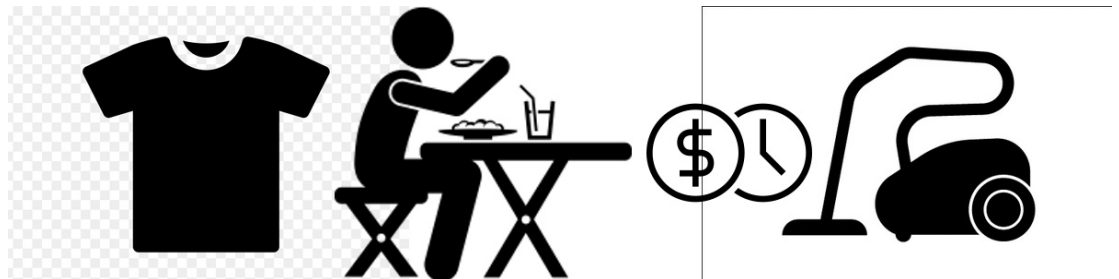
This area will help your child to maintain academic learning, manage personal information, and participate in communication, using the skills learned in early grades.

Orientation and Mobility



This area will help your child to orient and move as independently and safely as possible in familiar and unfamiliar environments. This area will help your child expand knowledge learned to independently travel in the community, practice with cane to travel safely and confidently in familiar and unfamiliar environments.

Independent Living



This area will help your child manage his/her everyday life, and maintain his/her living environment. This area will help your child organize his/her environment at home and in school, maintain personal hygiene, clothing care and identification, eating, cooking, cleaning, time and money management. The skills learn in this area are usually learned through observation and imitation by sighted children.

Social Interaction



This area will encourage your child to participate in social situations, prevent social isolation, and increase the likelihood of academic and employment success.

This area will help your child learn to maintain appropriate eye contact, to face a person who is speaking, to communicate efficiently, to cooperate and interact with others, and to develop friendships and relationships.

Recreation and Leisure



This area will focus on the development of interests and skills involved in physical and leisure activities.

This area will develop in your child an interest in fitness, individual sports, team and spectator sports, leisure activities and hobbies.

This area will develop in your child an awareness for health and healthy habits.

Career Education



This area will focus on competences and skills needed to prepare your child for all the roles he/she will play throughout his/her life.

This area will help your child to make informed choices about future employment and education.

This area will help your child prepare resumes, complete applications, and participate in interviews.

Lack of preparation in career education is the major cause of unemployment and underemployment facing adults with visual impairment.

Self-Determination



This area will develop the ability of your child to advocate for his/her own needs and desires, and to make independent choices about personal preferences and goals in life.

This area will develop in your child an understanding of his/her own visual impairment, and the adaptations and environmental modifications needed.

This area will develop the ability of your child to explain his/her visual impairment to others.

This area will help your child to develop more advanced methods of negotiation, and determination of his/her own needs to prepare for becoming an independent adult.

Encourage your child to participate in life outside the school to enable him/her to become integrated to the community more effectively.

This area will allow your child to be in control of his/her life.

The ECC doesn't stop at school door. Skills taught through the ECC should be used at home and in the community. They are fundamental to reinforce development and success of your child, as well as increase opportunities to work and live independently. These skills should be integrated into everyday life and activities.

Following routines and directions will help give your child security and predictability.