Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Annual Report

For School Year

2014-2015

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
A Center for Educational Services for All Blind and Visually Impaired Students in Texas
1100 W. 45th Street, Austin, Texas 78756
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A Message from the Superintendent
2014-2015

This past year at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI) was one of great teaching, great learning, and great service to everyone in Texas concerned with the education of students with visual impairments. It is the mission of TSBVI to not only serve those students enrolled in Comprehensive Programs (K-12) on our Austin campus, but to support and stimulate systems statewide through Short-Term Programs and Statewide Outreach. These systems include school districts, Education Service Centers, the Texas Education Agency, DARS-DBS, universities, and parent and consumer groups among others. TSBVI considers all of these to be our collaborative partners, and we invest a great deal of our resources trying to bring as much to the table as we can in support our shared goals.

Great schools are all about great teachers, and TSBVI has them in a concentration that is uncommon. Much of this has to do with our school having evolved into a professional learning community where expertise is purposefully shared and well received. Many of our educators began their TSBVI careers in our residential program or as teaching assistants. Thanks to our partnership with Texas Tech and Stephen F. Austin State Universities there are opportunities for non-certified staff to become Teachers of the Visually Impaired or Orientation and Mobility Specialists while still working at TSBVI. These individuals bring with them much valuable experience to the teaching ranks, and once there they become colleagues with veteran teachers who are truly specialists in our style of highly individualized education. More than a few of these veterans are nationally and internationally recognized experts in their area of specialization. These people, both the new and the seasoned, are collectively the foundation and the daily creativity behind everything we do at TSBVI.

Great learning depends on great teaching, but the learners at TSBVI provide the spark that keeps our teachers engaged and upbeat about the work. Each student that enrolls in TSBVI's Comprehensive Programs does so because their learning needs require *something different* than they were experiencing in their previous school. Students from the school districts that come to TSBVI's Short-Term Programs do so because they need something *in addition to* what they receive back home. Our job as a school is to first have an environment where there are no barriers to accessing the curriculum, and then to identify and act upon what makes each student special. You'll see in this report what good things happen to students in this situation. They begin to see themselves as learners with options about what they want to do with their life. This is inspiring and energizing to our staff and it all circulates back and forth.

Great service is the TSBVI Outreach Department doing its part and more to raise all boats in the state when it comes to students being successful leaners in their home communities, to having a sufficient supply of well trained Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists in our school districts, and to having parents who are active and well-informed members of their children's educational teams.

Inside this report you'll see data and parent/stakeholder feedback on how our three instructional arms—Comprehensive Programs, Short-Term Programs, and Outreach—are doing. I think you'll see why Texas is rightly proud of TSBVI, and why the school is known around the world as one of the very best.

William Daugherty

TSBVI - Who We Are

A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

The School was established by the Texas Legislature as the Blind Asylum in 1856 and classes were first held at the residence of Mr. W. L. Hill in Austin, Texas. The School moved to the present day "Little Campus" in the current day Arno Nowotny Building/Custer House of the University of Texas. A second campus was established on Bull Creek Road in Austin in 1889. In 1915 the School's name was changed to the Texas School for the Blind and the School moved to its present 45-acre campus on West 45th Street in Austin. A special program for deafblind children was initiated in 1972 and was housed in the former Confederate Widows' Mansion on 38th Street. The deafblind program moved to the 45th Street campus in 1981. In 1989, the School was given its current name, the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI), to reflect more accurately the population it serves. Major re-construction of the campus began in 2008 and continued through the 2011-2012 school year. Virtually every building on the campus was replaced with new construction by the end of 2012. Other campus improvements continued from that time through the 2014-15 school year including new perimeter fencing and gates, completion of a covered walkway, construction of an outdoor pavilion, campus signage, improvements to the campuswide public address system, and installation of conference video systems.

The main functions of TSBVI include:

- To provide a free, appropriate public education that addresses the intense or specialized needs of visually impaired children and youth, including those with additional disabilities when the local district and parents agree that such services are not available in a local program.
- To conduct supplemental programs, such as summer and other short-term programs.
- To provide statewide services to parents of students, school districts, regional education service centers, and other agencies including training, consultation, technical assistance, and developing and disseminating materials such as curriculum, instructional methodology, and educational technology.
- To partner with Texas Tech University and Stephen F. Austin State University in preparation programs for teachers of the visually impaired.

OUR VISION

All students in Texas who are blind or visually impaired, including those with deafblindness or additional disabilities, will have high quality educational opportunities to develop the skills, knowledge and character to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

OUR MISSION

The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired will serve as a leading center of expertise and supports, working in partnership with schools, families and organizations to improve educational outcomes for students who are blind or visually impaired, including those with deafblindness or additional disabilities.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

- We believe in the strength, competence and potential for independence of students who are blind or visually impaired, including those with deafblindness or additional disabilities. All staff at TSBVI foster and celebrate these attributes every day.

- We believe that our important mission, established by the people of Texas through our legislature, is to serve all students in the state through collaboration with local educational teams. By doing so, TSBVI ensures that Texas as a whole receives the greatest value for its investment in the promising future of these children and youths.

- We believe that the extraordinary blindness expertise developed at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired since its founding in 1856, continues to grow in its leadership for the entire state. We are committed to using this expertise for innovations that will eliminate all barriers to learning.

- We believe that the State of Texas has established a statewide educational system for these students that is widely recognized as among the very best in the nation. TSBVI is honored to play a key role in the achievement of this recognition.

The Staff

In 2014-2015 the staff of TSBVI was comprised of approximately 366 full-time and part-time positions including classroom teachers, teacher aides, job coaches, related service staff including orientation and mobility instructors, speech-language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, psychologists, behavior specialists, counselors, social workers, health services staff, residential staff who work with students after school hours, clerical staff, business office staff, admissions and records staff, technology staff, food service workers, custodial staff, transportation and security staff, among others.

The Board of Trustees

The School is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, which is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Board is comprised of three members who are blind or visually impaired, three who have experience working in the field of visual impairment, and three who are parents of a child who is blind or visually impaired. Public meetings of the Board are generally held 6 times per year.

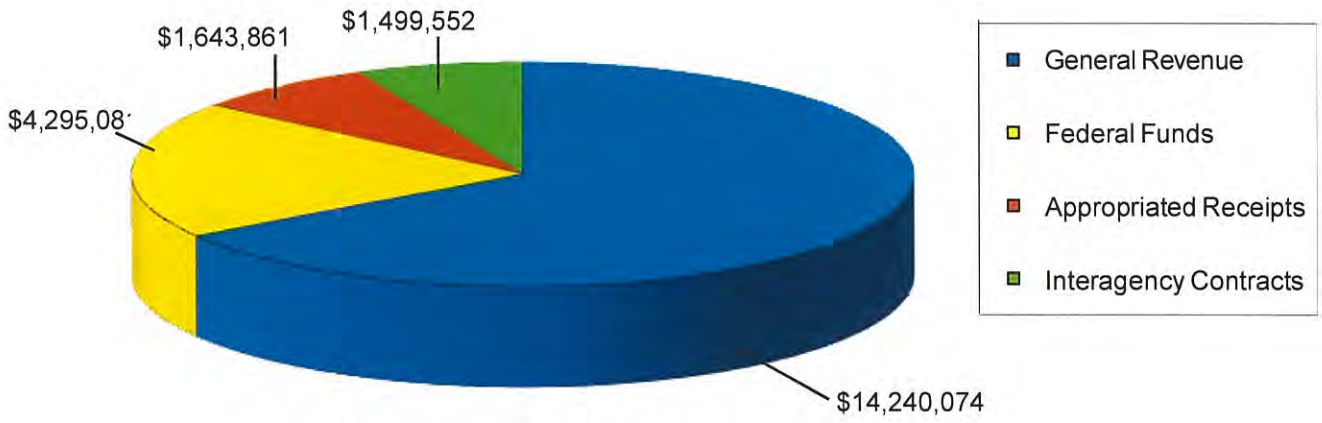
Our Partnerships

- Local school districts refer students to us for specific needs. Students are then shared between the school district and TSBVI, and information sharing and collaboration for the benefit of students is continuous.
- Education Service Centers are often a source of referrals to TSBVI, and the ESCs often are the point of contact when a student is returned to his/her community.
- Additional partners with whom TSBVI has a mutually productive and satisfying relationship are all local and state agencies and organizations of and for the blind.

Sources of Funding

The School is primarily funded through appropriations granted by the State Legislature. Other sources of funding include federal funds, appropriated receipts, interagency contracts, and donations.

SOURCES OF REVENUE 2014-2015



Total Revenue $21,678,568

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS

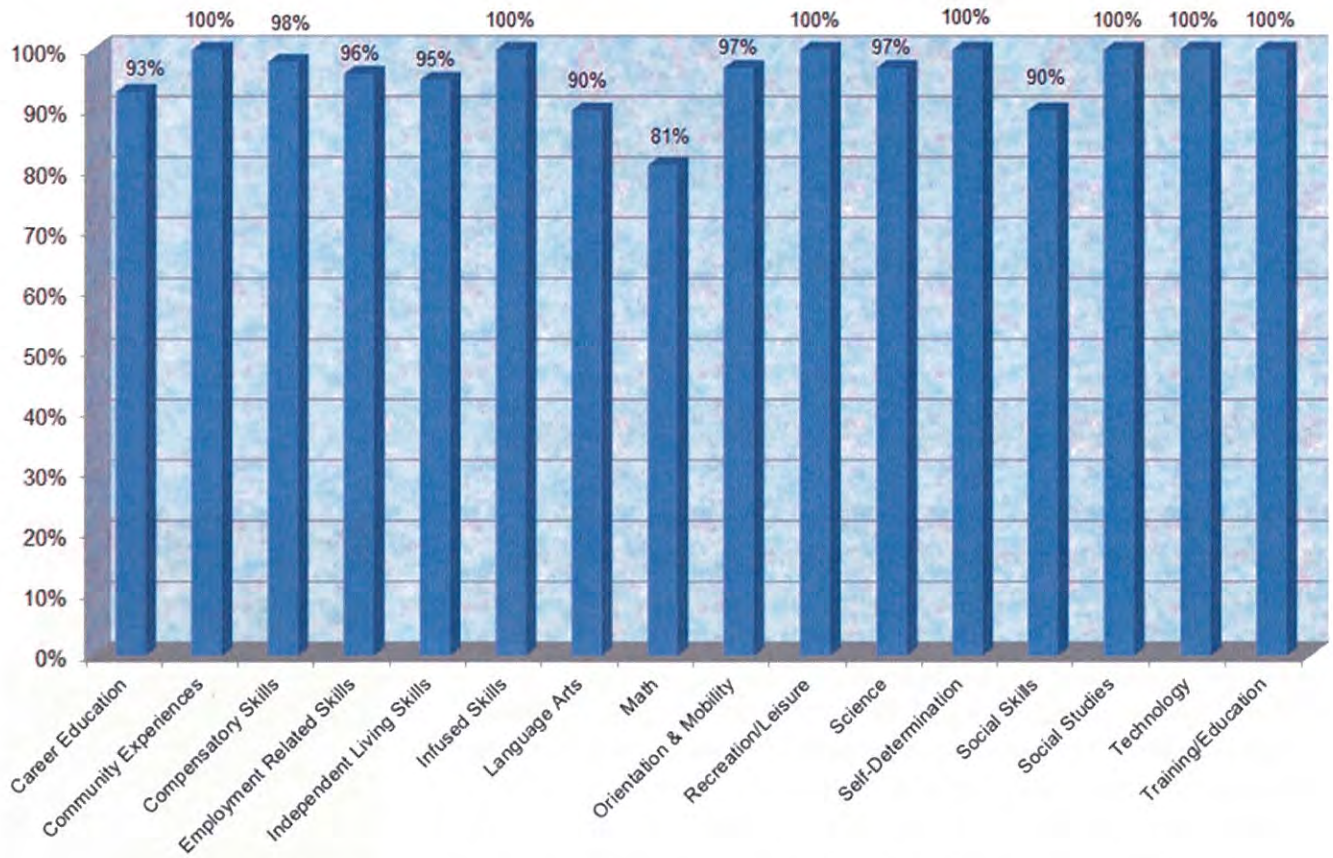
K-12 Program: TSBVI provides full-time comprehensive programs during the regular school year to students who are unable to receive an appropriate public education from the local school district. Districts refer students for placement to acquire a student-specific set of skills that, once learned, will allow the student to return to education in the home community. At TSBVI, students receive intensive instruction in all areas of the curriculum including braille reading and writing, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, career education, social skills, occupational and physical therapy, speech therapy, daily living skills training and many other disability-specific skill areas. TSBVI is the only placement in the State where all educational staff are specially trained and certified to teach students with visual impairments and all residential staff receive ongoing training in teaching independent living skills, including personal hygiene, dressing, grooming, and home care.

Post-Secondary Program: This program, offered in partnership with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Division of Blind Services, provides training for students who are legally blind and have a regular State Board of Education high school diploma or GED. Students seeking this post-secondary experience are in need of remedial academic, independent living and work related skills training. They will cultivate the skills, attitudes and opportunities necessary to meet the demands of competitive employment and adult living.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

- The school met and exceeded the performance standards agreed upon with the Texas Education Agency representing significant student progress in the following curricular areas. 80% of Comprehensive Program students achieved moderate to substantial progress on every area of the core and expanded core curriculum in which they received programming. The percentages of students assessed making moderate to substantial progress by subject area were:

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR



** Infused Skills (for multiply impaired students) – Social Communicative Interactions, Emotional Development, Senses and Motor Skills, Basic Concepts, Representation/Cognition(including basic math and language arts skills)

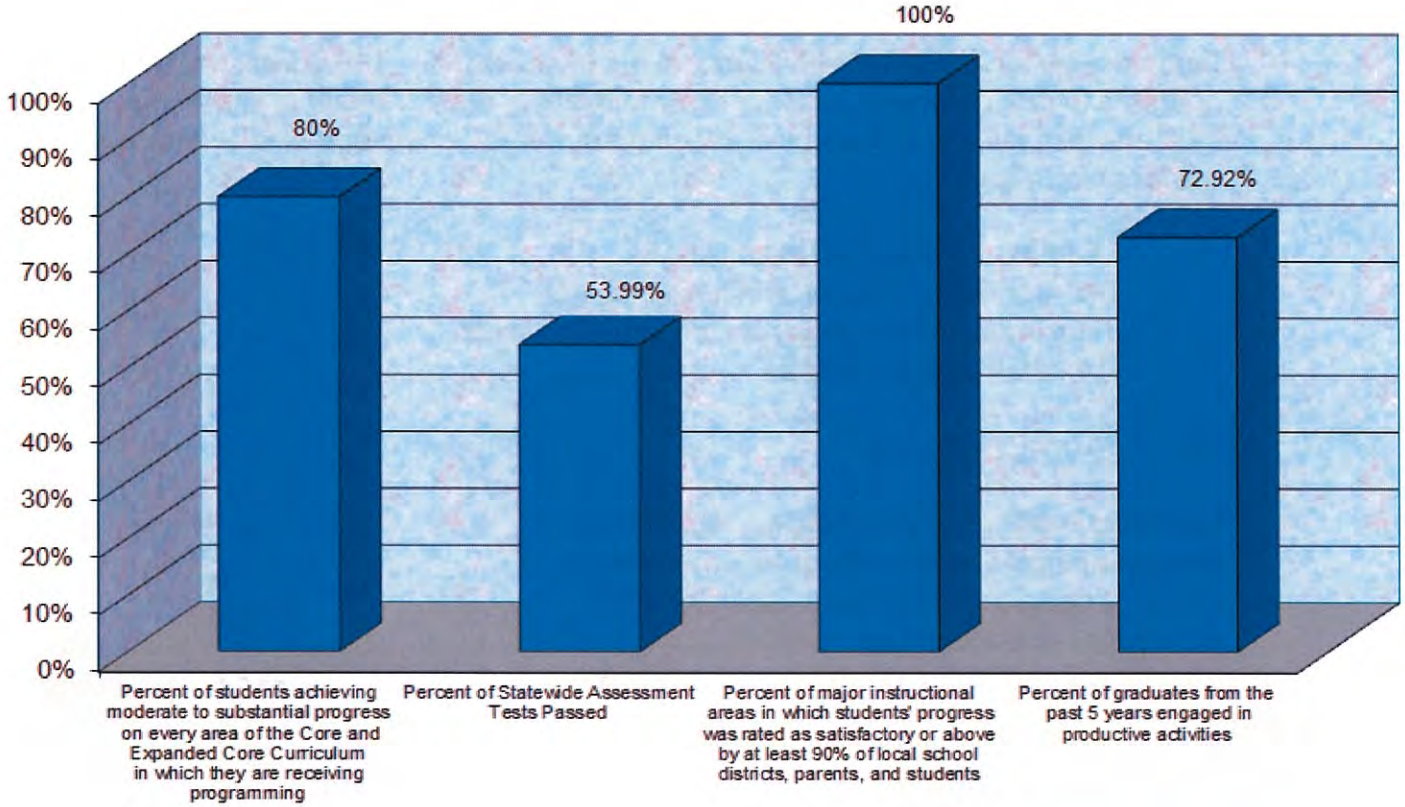
- 54% of statewide assessment tests taken met or exceeded the state passing standards.

- Student progress in 100% of the ten major instructional areas was rated as satisfactory, very satisfactory, or outstanding by at least 90% of parents, local school districts and students.

- 73% of students surveyed who graduated from TSBVI during the past 5 years were engaged in productive life activities (work, post-secondary education or training, child care, or volunteer activities).

- 100% of teachers and paraprofessionals met No Child Left Behind highly qualified standards.

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS MEASURES FOR 2014-2015



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- During the 2014-2015 school year, the Career Education Department implemented a new Systematic/ Sequential approach to Career Education. This programming model consists of the following five steps:

  Step 1: General Employability

  The General Employability course, which has been approved by the Texas Education Agency for innovative course elective credit, is designed to guide students through learning the skills that can be transferable among a variety of jobs and careers and are considered essential in any employment situation. Some of the skills and concepts addressed in this course:

- Personal hygiene and grooming
- Dressing and clothing care
- Effects of a balanced diet on job performance
- Social interaction skills
- Problem solving
- Conflict resolution

Step 2: MAPS I

The second course in the continuum of Career Education courses is called Methodology for Academic and Personal Success (MAPS). The purpose of this course is to pick up where the General Employability course left off in preparing students for the world of work by increasing their skills, knowledge, and awareness in the following areas:

- Learning and communication styles
- Self-discipline, attitude, and resiliency
- Time management, organization, and study skills
- Leadership and character

Step 3: Work Exploration

Work Exploration is a year-long course for high school students that consists of seven five-week rotations designed to increase each student's awareness of work and self in order to help guide him or her in narrowing down future vocational pursuits. Rotation areas include:

- Animal Care
- Gardening
- Culinary Arts
- Coffee Shop
- Housekeeping (Wildcat Inn, laundry)
- Assembly and Production
- Customer Care

Step 4: MAPS II

Methodology for Academic and Personal Success II (MAPS II) is designed to assist students with narrowing vocational goals and increasing awareness. With the teacher's guidance, students in this course are expected to:

- Explore and analyze personal strengths, weaknesses, interests, and goals in order to establish a plan for success that continues throughout high school into post-secondary education, an internship, or training program.
- Research, analyze, and apply career information (including college investigation and job search skills as applicable).

Step 5: Work Training

When students reach step 5, the goal is for them to have an increased awareness of interests, aptitudes, and career goals. Students are then placed in job settings, both on and off campus, that closely replicate natural work environments.

During the 2014-2015 school year, students participated in **on-campus work training** at the following sites:

- Animal Care
- Horticulture
- Assembly/ Manufacturing (including Embroidery)
- Wildcat Coffee Shop (and Service)
- Wildcat Bistro
- Wildcat Recycling
- Wildcat Cleaning Crew
- Wildcat Juicebar
- Wildcat Inn (including laundry service)
- "Roar Store" (spirit store)
- Mike Smith Work Center
- Elementary Work Center

New **on campus student positions** were created for three students:

- Greenhouse Manager
- Work Center Production Manager
- Student Technology Intern

18 students participated in **off-campus work training** at the following sites:

- Top Drawer Thrift Store
- DADS Winter's Building (Texercise office)
- Texas Coffee Traders
- Austin Humane Society
- Stubb's Barbeque
- Gethsemane Lutheran Child Development Center
- Parson's House Retirement Community
- Pease Elementary School

The number of students participating in off campus work training was lower than in recent years. This reduction was attributed to the need for an increased focus on more explicitly addressing employability concepts and skills and exposing students to a wider variety of on campus work experiences (as explained above). That said, we continue to pursue off campus work training that is aligned with student interest, aptitude, and future goals.

Links Program
2014-2015 was the second year of our Links Program. This program is a collaborative effort between TSBVI, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services/Division of Blind Services (DARS/DBS), and the Midtown Austin location of Holiday Inn. Once again, two students earned the right (through a competitive application and interview process) to have a semester-long paid work experience at Holiday Inn. Over the course of the spring semester, the students received training in Housekeeping, Front Desk, Food and Beverage, and catering/ event setup. The students were paid minimum wage by DARS/ DBS and received support from a Job Coach that was contracted by DARS/DBS.

The goal of the Links Program is to provide an in depth work experience for a specific employer with the hope of linking participants with employment opportunities for that employer (or similar employers) in their home community.

Competitive Employment
During the 2014-2015 school year one high school student pursued and obtained afterschool employment at Starbucks Coffee.

Career Fair/ Expo
In April 2014, TSBVI's Career Education department held a Career Fair aimed at exposing students to the world of work. A total of 52 students participated in this event, many of which were in elementary and middle school. We had a great turnout of working adults with blindness and visual impairment from Austin and the greater Texas area. These representatives highlighted what it takes to succeed in the world of work and discussed the challenges our students may face as they pursue their careers. Students were able to have hands-on experiences in animal care, housekeeping and even practice barista skills with our portable coffee cart! Later in the day, students participated in Q&A sessions with some of our guest speakers.

Our guests included:

- Casilda Contreras: Art teacher and autism specialist
- Bobby Lackey: Technology Specialist from Texas Instruments
- Olivia Perez and Shirley Chesson: Massage Therapists
- John Castillo: Technology Specialist for Criss Cole Rehabilitative Center and a former member of TSBVI's Career Education Department
- Winford Hayes: O&M specialist from Criss Cole Rehabilitative Center
- Karla Martinez: Restaurant proprietor at the Brown-Heatley building and participant of the Business Enterprises of Texas program
- William Vandry: Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu master, medalist for Team USA and

founder of the Vandry Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy
- Marcus Caldwell: Jazz saxophonist and recording artist
- Stephen Michael Kerr: Radio Host at Majic 95.5 and TSB alumni
- TSBVI student representatives from the LINKS program

Participation in an array of beneficial after-school activities for students included: Robotics Club, archery, rowing, stand up paddle boarding, Yearbook Club, yoga, dance, art, group games, tandem biking, bicycle maintenance, Music Mania, Goalball, Spanish Club, swimming, swimming lessons, music recording, scrapbooking, cooking & baking, international foods, Drama Club, Walking & Running Club, hiking, jewelry making, Pep Squad, Cheerleading, Wrestling, Gardening Club, Book Club, quiz night, Badger Dog Writing Club, Poker night, Leo Club, basketball, weight training, judo, bowling, private music lessons, kayaking, canoeing, rock wall climbing, Boy Scouts of America, and Venture Crew. Also, students were given individualized instruction in self-directed leisure activities like beading, weaving, macramé, puzzles and clay modeling. For adult-age students, emphasis was placed on development of adult-oriented community-based fitness, leisure and recreational options.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN 2014-2015

- Students participated in statewide White Cane Day activities in downtown Austin.
- A parent weekend conference was held with 97 students' families in attendance.
- The 2014-2015 Student Council provided an array of fun activities for the student body as well as service projects for the school and community. They helped with the annual Red Ribbon Week drug-free celebration by providing and serving snacks.

The Student Council also took part in the annual Parent Weekend by sponsoring a cake walk. In addition, they raised money to donate toys to Operation Blue Santa. The Council members made some 30 cards and goody bags for families at the Ronald MacDonald House. They also hosted Senior Night, an evening of good food, music and fun, to honor all of our seniors. As in previous years, the Student Council partnered with AT&T Volunteers to bring an Easter egg hunt (with beeping Easter eggs) to TSBVI. They also hosted a Valentine's Day dance, school spirit week and the sixth annual student talent show, featuring 19 performers. The Council concluded the year by sponsoring an ice cream social to celebrate the many accomplishments of our TSBVI students.

- Ten students, ages 9-17, participated in the annual Regional Braille Challenge competition at the Region XIII Education Service Center, on February 28, 2015. These motivated students competed in Speed & Accuracy, Proofreading, Reading Comprehension, Charts & Graphs, and Spelling at this national competition sponsored by the Braille Institute of America. TSBVI students took first, second and third place in the Apprentice Uncontracted Emergent Braille Division; first, second and third place in the Emerging Sophomore Division; and first place in the Varsity Division. Most importantly, each participating student improved his or her braille literacy and love of reading.

- On October 17 and 18, in Irving, Texas, 76 TSBVI students participated in the 16th Annual Sports Extravaganza for students who are blind and visually impaired. The Sports Extravaganza provides opportunities for students with visual impairments to participate in a variety of activities that encourage a more active lifestyle and lead to participation in lifelong leisure, recreation, and competitive sports activities. TSBVI students competed in Goalball, track and field, and beeper ball. TSBVI brought home more than 200 medals and ribbons. In the Goalball tournament, four TSBVI teams playing in the tournament: one girls' advanced team, one girls' intermediate team, one boys' advanced team, and the boys' intermediate team. All four teams took first place!

- In St. Augustine, Florida, November 6-9, TSBVI's boys' and girls' 2014 Goalball teams competed at the Goalball Youth National Championships along with 16 other Goalball teams. Both the boys' and the girls' TSBVI teams advanced into the quarterfinals. The girls' team's last game was against heavily favored California. The TSBVI girls showed great teamwork and worked hard to the end, but came up short, thereby ending their tournament. However, the TSBVI girls did not walk away empty handed; they received an even bigger honor. Because of the team's positive attitude, teamwork, and unparalleled Texas spirit, the TSBVI girls were given the tournament's Sportsmanship Award. The TSBVI Boys' Team also played into the quarterfinals. TSBVI Boys' met up with the Goalball powerhouse team, Washington. The TSBVI boys gave it their all, but lost to Washington.

- Black Heritage and Fiesta Day activities were held at the School.

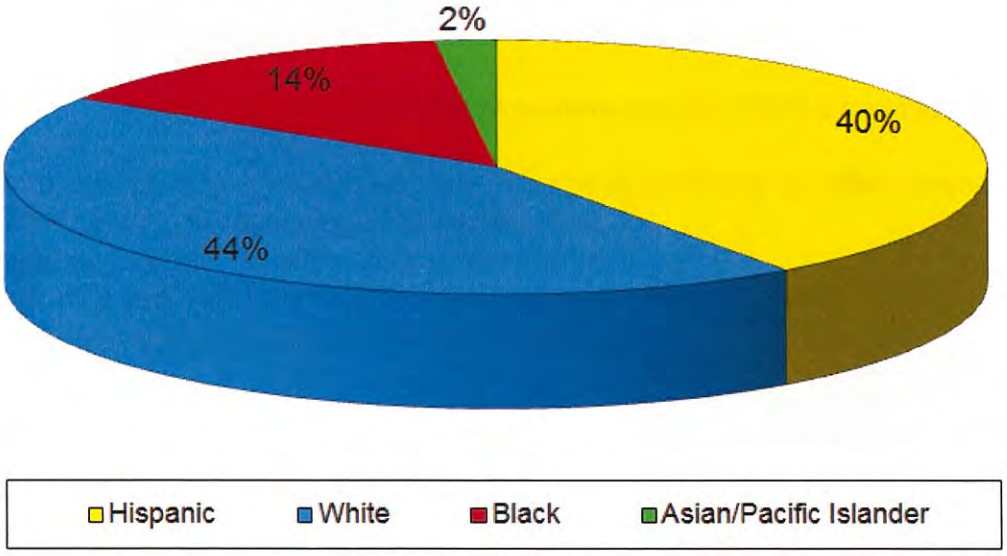
- A senior banquet took place in the cafeteria as well as the junior/senior prom with a theme of Hollywood Nights" at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

In the 2014-2015 school year, 164 students representing 110 local school districts throughout Texas were enrolled in the Comprehensive Programs of TSBVI.

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Elementary Program	30	31	32	27	21
Secondary Program	126	133	137	129	134
Post-Secondary Program	7	7	7	9	9
TOTAL	**163**	**171**	**176**	**165**	**164**

ETHNICITY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2014-2015 COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS



Comprehensive Program Survey Responses from Parents and Local School Districts

TSBVI has been the best school setting for my daughter. She has blossomed and grown up so much. Staff has been great, caring. She loves going back to school as much as coming home.

My son has grown and matured while at TSBVI. In all the years he has been at TSBVI, I have nothing but praise and a giant thank you to all the staff that has crossed his path. TSBVI has an amazing bunch of people whose patience, compassion, teaching skills, understanding and friendship has made my son a wonderful person! You will all be missed!!!

I don't have enough words to thank teachers, residential instructors and staff for all that my son has learned during the time he's been at TSBVI. His teacher is a great teacher and the residential instructors are very good. I'm looking forward to having my son at least one more year at TSBVI. My son is very happy being there. God bless you all for your great work. Thanks.

I am a very satisfied parent to have my child a part of TSBVI program. TSBVI shows how much they care for the student as well as the family. We are very blessed to have learned and met the teachers and principal of such great humanity. I recommend TSBVI for all kids with vision situations that are determined to be successful in life no matter the obstacles.

We are very pleased with the staff at TSBVI. My son has learned a lot. He is now an independent person thanks to TSBVI.

As a parent of a special needs child I discovered patience I never knew I had, and discovered the drive to achieve to no end that my son has. And the courage he has. TSBVI has been an added blessing to our family. Our son has learned so much in a short time and has developed a renewed sense of independence for himself by living away from home, and all the new skills he has learned, and he now understands that he still has an amazing life ahead of him in spite of his vision loss! Thank you and may God continue to bless everyone involved at TSBVI.

I love TSBVI, it has been a wonderful experience for my son.

We are very pleased with our student's progress! She has made great progress in her Braille skills since she began attending TSB. Her mobility skills have greatly improved and her confidence level has blossomed! Going to TSB has truly made a difference in her education and her life. Thank you!

I visited TSBVI and was overall impressed with what I observed. All 5 students appear to be very happy and adapted to their placement. I saw growth and progress academically, and emotionally in all of the students. I believe these 5 students attendance at TSBVI is vital to

their overall development and I believe they will return to the district prepared for challenges and opportunities they will face.

I visited with staff and observed the student in a vocational classroom setting. The facilities are impressive and the knowledgeable staff shows genuine concern for our student's success. Thank you for all you do!

Our student's placement at TSBVI is the best thing that could have happened to him.

We are very thankful to have been able to collaborate with TSBVI in order to provide our student the specialized instruction he needed to be a successful independent adult in our community.

Our student is doing spectacularly using tactile symbols. I am so pleased with her success so far as part of the TSBVI program. The comfort and confidence I feel - that this has the best placement for her at this time - is very reassuring; I can only imagine how her parents feel! She is my first student to attend during the school year, and I am thrilled that she is in such great hands. Thank you.

TSBVI has been great for my student and I have seen improvement within her independence in other areas. I'm so glad that we have you as a resource to help students succeed.

After adjusting from living away from home, I believe my student has made gains in understanding her visual impairment and how to use low vision devices to address her vision loss. This helps her in the school, community and home setting.

I am very impressed with the services & staff at TSBVI. They have really put our student's interest at heart and provided an amazing program to meet his specific needs. Thank you!

Progress reports are very informative and make us feel like we are there with you all! We are very happy about our student's progress. Thank you all for the job you do.

I made a visit with our student at TSBVI and was very impressed with the EXIT program and her progress. All the staff were very welcoming to me and provided all the information I needed. I observed for the entire day and was allowed to shadow her during all her classes, lessons, and work stations. She has grown so much in her independence and confidence. She introduced me to many of her friends and teachers. I am so proud of her. Thank you EXIT program for all that you have done.

Our student's guardian is very happy with progress. Everyone has been wonderful to work with. I have truly enjoyed working with your lead teacher and his team.

This program met the student's needs very well; particularly in the area of math and science. I wish there was a rating higher than outstanding!

TSBVI offers great opportunity for our students. The knowledge and skill level of the TSBVI staff is outstanding.

Our student's LEA observed her at TSBVI two times this school year and we are very satisfied with progress made this year. Thank you for all you have done to assist her.

I know that my student has matured, gained an incredible amount of knowledge, has improved in ALL areas, and has had a wonderful experience at TSBVI! I say, with pride, to anyone who asks, that I did my student teaching/internship at TSBVI and that it truly helped me be proficient in what I do on a day-to-day basis. Go Wildcats!

Our student has learned a lot while being at TSBVI. Her Braille and Nemeth reading have improved greatly. Her technology skills have also improved. He has also had wonderful experiences in sports. TSBVI has been an excellent school for her. Thank you to the staff!

SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

SUMMER SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

Summer programs serve students who are not full-time students at TSBVI during the regular school year. They emphasize those skills from the Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments that may be challenging for districts to teach during the school year. Students are served through six different summer programs: Academic Secondary Enrichment, Practical Academic Secondary Enrichment, Elementary Summer Enrichment, SWEAT (an exit level work program for academic students), WALIC (an exit level work program for practical academic students), and Life Skills Camp. Instruction includes:

- Applying academic skills within functional, real-life situations such as independent living or having a job;
- Improving skills of independent living such as personal care, home care, money management, travel, responsibility and organization, and interacting well with others;
- Introducing a range of recreational and leisure activities that might lead to future interest and skill development;
- Participating in activities on campus and in the community;
- Enhancing one's sense of confidence and well-being, self-knowledge, and self-advocacy, which can grow from being away from home on one's own, as well as from interacting with other successful visually impaired students and adults;
- Becoming familiar with concepts and skills that lay the foundation for future career exploration and employment.

Students who attend summer programs are often the only visually impaired student in their school. These summer classes introduce them to empowering experiences and ideas related to living with visual impairment, and provide a socially supportive peer group that reduces feelings of isolation, difference and loneliness. Many students develop enduring friendships and support networks that can last a lifetime. This support can be an important complement to the education they receive in their local districts, and even increase their motivation to learn more in school.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2015 SUMMER PROGRAMS

1. The database proved to be an invaluable tool in effectively and efficiently managing data and our continued expansion of its capacity is a high priority. Embedding the lengthy Med/Diet form into the database has resulted in improved accuracy and access to information for departments across campus.

2. Classes for academic secondary students are theme oriented rather than subject matter oriented. For example, students took classes such as Visual Arts, Wildcat Bistro, Summer Actor's Workshop, Performance Arts Intensive, or Rock Band, rather than Math, Science or Language Arts. The students then practice academic and vision-specific skills within the

context of these appealing, real-life settings (e.g., developing a budget, shopping for goods, writing documents to advertise products, evaluating effectiveness). In our 2015 academic secondary classes we offered a range of themes, serving 125 students in 15 different classes.

3. Our practical academic secondary students were grouped into self-contained classes of about five students of similar age and level of ability. This year, we did not offer PASE class themes ahead of time but TVIs were able to select student interests from a menu of choices. Our top priority was to place students in groups that best meet their needs and interests. Within these classes, students practiced a broad array of skills such as functional literacy and math, personal care and home management, recreation and leisure, work, social skills, and self-determination. In summer 2015 we served 34 practical academic secondary students in 7 different classes.

4. Elementary summer enrichment classes were similar to secondary classes in structure: they provided opportunities for students to practice academic and vision-related skills in activities such as music, community outings, self-care, shopping, cooking, arts and crafts, and recreational activities. Examples of classroom themes were: Transition to Middle School, Nature Detectives, The Time Machine, Fun With Food, Farm to Market, Austin Explorers, and The Power of Me. Each summer we modify our original offerings based on requests. This year, we served 81 elementary students in 11 one- or two-week classes.

5. 30 high-school students participated in paid jobs (stipend or minimum wage) throughout the Austin community (listed below). They received intensive training in all aspects of work – getting a job, keeping a job, workplace protocol, specific job skills, managing money, traveling independently to work, and solving problems that arise at work. They also received training in independent living at home and in the community. This included managing a house or apartment; domestic skills such as cleanliness, cooking, shopping, recreation in the community; and achieving a balance between independence and interdependence.

6. 48 visually impaired students with significant multiple impairments, including deafblindness, were provided the opportunity to be away from home (often for the first time) in our Life Skills Camp, participating in skills of independent living and recreational activities in the community.

7. 93% of responding school districts and parents rated their experience in summer programs as very satisfactory or outstanding.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SUMMER 2015

1. Secondary academic classes were offered in four major areas:
   - Fine Arts: Summer Actor's Workshop; Art from the Heart; Rock Band; Performing Arts Intensive
   - Physical Education & Adventure: Outdoor Education (PE for SBOE credit); Camp Challenge
   - Expanded Core Independent Living, Mobility & More: Middle School Enrichment; Getting There; Taste of Independence
   - Small Business Endeavors: Wildcat Bistro & Catering

2. Our procedure is to advertise a large variety of classes on our application/website, and then provide only those that best match actual student selections. One class (Braille in my Life) was advertised for Summer 2015 but we were unable to secure an instructor for the full three-week course. All other advertised classes filled and were offered.

3. Our programs for academic middle school age students were in very high demand. We served 13 students in our two-week Middle School Enrichment (MSE) classes, and 19 students in our one-week MSE classes; thus serving a total of 32 students.

4. The Transition to Middle School classes are offered each summer to the oldest elementary students who are about to move into a middle school setting. This is an especially difficult transition for students with visual impairments. The summer classes address issues such as personal organization (managing lockers, organizing materials and day timers, retrieving information, dealing with time and deadlines); self-advocacy (explaining your needs to teachers and other students); social skills (caring for personal appearance; initiating conversations and meeting new people); adaptive tools and technology (exposure to scanning software, magnification systems, and homework and classroom aids); orientation and mobility (changing classes, negotiating crowded hallways).

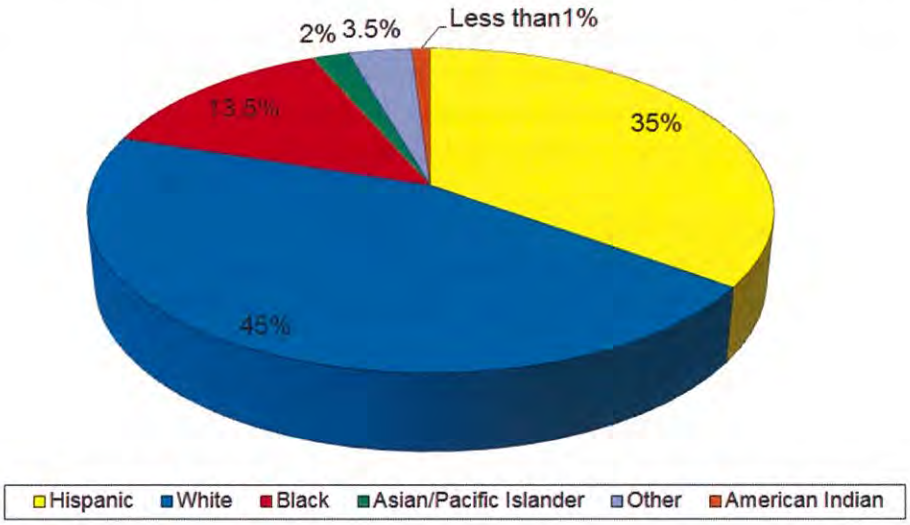
5. 30 high school students participated in jobs at the following community locations:
   - SWEAT Academic (individual job sites): YMCA Town Lake, YMCA North, Umlauf Sculpture Garden, Open Door Preschool, The Hungry Hub Cafe, Austin Public Library, Dragon's Lair Comics and Fantasy, Garbo A Salon, Double Tree Hotel, Karla's Kuisine, Austin Humane Society, Fish Gallery, Ten Thousand Villages, Lonestar Kids, and Zinger Hardware and General Merchant.
   - WALIC Practical Academic (3-4 students per site): Top Drawer Thrift Shop, Wal-Mart, Department of Aging and Disability Services, Goodwill, and TSBVI Animal Care.

ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

In the 2015 Summer Programs, 318 students were served, representing 18 of the 20 Education Service Center regions and 136 local school districts throughout Texas.

YEAR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SUMMER PROGRAMS	335	320	328	314	318

ETHNICITY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2015 SUMMER PROGRAMS



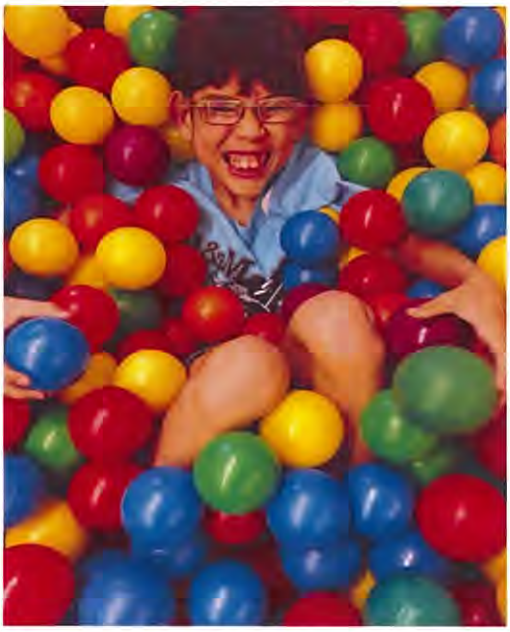
Summer Program Survey Responses From Parents and Local School Districts

I have a more confident child. She knows she can do different things without me holding her hand. She actually does more every day activities without a prompt from me.

I enjoy my child attending TSBVI as he has to learn how to get along with others, take care of his own stuff and be more responsible. I feel it has helped him every time he has attended.

This is a fantastic learning environment for my daughter. She gets a lot of confidence from being around other visually impaired students, which carries over into her academic and social endeavors. We highly value her time there!

I have been very pleased with the classes offered by TSBVI. They are not something that I think I could have taught my son at home or at least that he would have listened to me. He really enjoyed the writer's workshop this past summer!



Before we started at TSBVI about three summers ago, we (my husband and I) were WAY overprotective. We encased our son in a "bubble" of overprotectiveness. While we are still vigilant when it comes to his safety, through TSBVI summer programs we have learned to let go of the reins of control and to TRUST our son's judgment. We realized that by our being overprotective, we were handicapping him - and that had nothing to do with his visual impairment. The programs at TSBVI are INCREDIBLE for both the student AND the parents.

Always love the staff I meet there; always friendly and helpful!

The staff were outstanding. They help my son in every way they can. Very helpful and courteous staff.

Great staff. Very impressed with the knowledge, professionalism and courteousness of everyone we've interacted with there.

I have always found the staff to be very polite and knowledgeable and if they do not have the answer, they will find someone who does. In my opinion, the staff truly cares about the students and that shows in all of their actions.

The staff is wonderful and we really appreciate what great care they take of the students. Thank you.

EVERYONE that we have met at TSBVI (staff) have been very courteous. Whenever we have questions, we email them and usually receive a response that same day. When speaking to the teachers, they take the time to EXPLAIN what was done and how our student reacted/interacted in the classroom and with other students.

The information and knowledge and life experience that our child receives at TSBVI is unsurpassed. I believe that his experiences at TSBVI are doing more to prepare him for the real world after his school years. These real life experiences are priceless.

You have a great program filled with amazing people!!

Thank you very much for giving my child this opportunity. I would like for him to go there all year. You made an impact in my child's life and that is priceless. Thank you again!

Many thanks for all your attention, I am very happy and grateful to you because I believe angels have come to our life in very difficult times and they have been very supportive.

I was thoroughly impressed, something changed my daughter immensely. She came home with self-esteem, new friends and even a boyfriend. She is a new person because of this experience and I cannot wait to send her again. She exudes confidence and acceptance of her "disability" for

lack of a better word. Her friends she made have made her understand that she has different capabilities and not disabilities. Love, Love, Love all that you do.

Thank you again for the opportunities bestowed upon my daughter. Proud mother!!!

My daughter does not easily make friends, your school has helped her socially more than any other school.

The staff is amazing! We only send our son to your summer program because you have professionals who are with the students. Thank you for a safe environment for our son and many others!! Love this school and we brag on all of you to everyone!

My son actually matured on this trip. Thank you sooooo much for this opportunity to assist us in helping children be independent and successful. Thank you!

This was an incredible camp and we were simply amazed at the amount of activities that students get to experience. The counselors were highly motivated which also helps make this so special for our child. Thank you so much!

I wish I could rate even higher than outstanding. The interpersonal skills, the friendships, the level of confidence my daughter achieved was beyond measure. I think the week she spent at Camp Challenge was life changing. It showed her the possibilities that lie ahead. The staff is incredible. What an opportunity! Thank you all.

I can't possibly express how positive TSBVI is in my son's life. He comes home with new skills and is always anxious to try new things. Even though his visits are merely a week or two weeks, he has built lifelong skills. It is his favorite place to be.

I thank you and congratulate you sincerely for all you do for these children. It is incredible work and I thank God that there are people like you who care about our children's disability.

While I am not there to see and hear what all goes on in person, my son has the highest regards for TSBVI programs and can't get enough.

Our son loved his time at the Summer Enrichment camp. We hope to be able to participate again next summer. Outstanding activities and staff!!

This is such a positive experience every time our children get to participate in programs at TSBVI.

I am so grateful for TSBVI summer programs. The opportunities for community exploration and learning in a peer setting is invaluable to us.

Our daughter loves the dorms. The peer environment, learning and opportunities there are such a great opportunity for any blind child. We love TSBVI, staff, programs and overall experience. She

is still talking about her time there this summer and has shared it with staff at her home school. It made a great impact on her and we both hope she is able to participate again.

I was glad to hear that our son had many social experiences with other visually impaired students and was able to witness them doing regular everyday things. I think this may help him better accept his visual impairment and acknowledge his needs.

Some of these opportunities would not be available to my student if not for TSBVI (coming from a small community).

My student always gives "glowing reports" about her classes at TSBVI. She has received tremendous benefits from the opportunities given to her there.

TSBVI staff are always courteous, kind and helpful anytime I contact them by phone or email. Always.

You provide us with helpful information as well as solutions to some of the challenges we might face at times. Thanks for your hands-on approach!

This student had a lot to say. He really enjoyed the social aspects of the camp and the opportunity of being independent. Suffice to say that he informed me that he and his peers are looking to see if there is a three week camp! (I was a little sad at how grown up he sounded.)

My student had a fabulous time and learned a lot! We are thrilled that he had this opportunity!!!

The learning opportunities at TSBVI are really needed for our students and TSBVI provides a much needed resource. All the student that I referred to TSBVI and who were able to go during the summer have come back to us with a variety of learning experiences which they have been able to continue with in their home school.

My student had a wonderful time. The overall programming is excellent. The report was amazing and seemed to touch on several areas that she needed some extra skill training in. Sometimes, in the school setting, we don't get to see, firsthand some of the dressing skills, or lack of. It also does a lot for her self- esteem and independence!

Great staff that cares and takes time during the summer to work with our students. Job Well Done. Parents and myself are greatly appreciative of all the work you all do to make it meaningful for our student. He got to experience many activities you had planned that sometimes are not available where we live. Outstanding learning experience.

This was my student's first experience attending a program through TSBVI. He thrived and had such a positive experience and his family is very satisfied. I will plan on recommending more programs through TSBVI.

The TSBVI staff is so informative and helpful. I appreciate their teaching techniques, strategies, and knowledge that they provide in a professional manner.

The staff at TSBVI are always excellent. They are very hands-on, and very positive at all times.

Family was very excited that their son enjoyed his summer experience. It was a great opportunity for him to interact with others while being away from home and his family.

Thank you for all you do for our students!!!!!!

My student had opportunities she would not have in her small community. She really looks forward to her trips to Austin. She would love to live there all year long!

It is evident that my student participated in and had exposure to things he would never be able to experience at home and/or in his local district.

He came back with confidence and learned a lot of practical hands on skills.

The staff was great. Welcoming, encouraging and very skilled in working with my student.

My student lives in a very small community. The summer program is a wonderful opportunity for him to meet other peers that have visual impairments. He is the only one in his area and this gives him a time to talk to others about his experience.

Our student seems to have gained self-confidence. She really needed independent living skills enforced and was able to get that at TSBVI which built her confidence, self-determination and she is afraid of upsetting others so having her voice her opinion was great. She doesn't have that opportunity at home and she doesn't want to rock the boat too much.

TSBVI provides the intensity, frequency, and duration of learning opportunities over the Expanded Core Curriculum skills that would be impossible for the local districts to provide.

Thank you - we appreciate all you do to give our students a spectacular and practical experience!

Very impressive. He matured a great deal and became very confident.

Excellent. Student has grown quite a bit in confidence and ability to try new things. His motivation is much stronger this year. He has more capability and knows it. Hope is in his heart. Thank you, TSBVI.

SCHOOL YEAR SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

School year Short-Term Programs (STP) were initiated in September 1999 in response to local districts' requests for assistance with the unique needs of students who are academically successful and near grade level, but need to learn special adaptive skills in order to access the core curriculum and participate fully in the learning and social environment. Between September and May we offer intensive classes, from three to five days in length, in areas such as adaptive technology, math tools and strategies, low vision tools and strategies, etc. In addition to working on the objectives for which they are referred, students receive instruction in other aspects of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for Students with Visual Impairments. This includes access skills related to independent living, travel, recreation and leisure, social interaction, and self-determination – in the company of peers with visual impairments who are also practicing these skills. Instruction begins when students wake up (e.g., breakfast preparation before class) and ends at bedtime (with residential activities such as domestic and personal care, food preparation, community access, organization and responsibility, homework, self-knowledge and self-advocacy). Participants also meet other students and adults with visual impairments, which is often the significant ingredient contributing to a change of attitude that can impact their educational, vocational, and social success.

TSBVI provides four types of short-term classes during the school year:

1. <u>Individualized instruction to promote access to and success with the core curriculum (TEKS)</u>

   Local districts refer students to work on aspects of the ECC that support academic success. Each student's individualized objectives are jointly determined between STP staff and the local Teacher of the Visually Impaired. Parents may also contribute to the selection of objectives.

2. <u>Special topic classes</u>

   Classes are offered on specific topics pertinent to students with visual impairments. Special topic classes offered during the 2014-15 school year were:
   - High School Skills Workshop (math, technology topics)
   - Junior Access to Academic Skills
   - Science Lab Tools
   - Low Vision Tools and Strategies: Elementary
   - Low Vision Tools and Strategies: Secondary
   - College Prep
   - Accessible Math Tools and Strategies
   - City Travel (orientation and mobility in a big city)
   - Elementary Tech for Tykes (a 3-part series)
   - Elementary Math for Munchkins (a 3-part series)

- In The Driver's Seat
- JAWS: Don't be Afraid with students and their TVIs (distance learning component)

3. Independence weekends
   Students participate in theme-oriented classes that provide opportunities to apply and practice skills of independent living, mobility, academics, self-determination, communication, recreation and leisure. Classes offered during the 2014-15 school year were:

   - Outdoor Challenge (high school)
   - Outdoor Adventures (elementary)
   - Prom Weekend
   - Iron Chef (food management and preparation)
   - Capitol Experience (state legislative process)
   - Pioneer Times (Elementary)

4. Distance Learning
   Short-Term Programs is ready to start developing effective distance learning classes for students and incidentally, their teachers. To that end, we developed a course on use of the TI-84 Graphing Calculator, after conducting a survey of TVI needs. Our struggles remain in having the technical staff to convert our lessons/content into an accessible digital course on a Learning Management System or LMS. We found the most success in conducting follow-up lessons with a student who attended one of our classes but continued to struggle back in the district. An STP teacher meets with this student and her TVI once a month via a conference call. They discuss obstacles, needs, and possible solutions. Our teacher then provides instruction and guidance including emailing links and resources. We have also conducted several classes via the Edmodo learning platform for students who were in attendance in an STP class. STP is looking forward to the addition of the new position of Distance Learning Online Developer (in 2015-16) to help us make our content and instruction available in both synchronous and asynchronous digital formats.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014-2015 SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

1. Students were instructed in a broad range of skills related to visual impairment, including: accessing the computer for word processing, presentations, spreadsheets, email, and internet access; non-visual access of iDevices and apps that support the ECC; tactile graphics; skills for independent living; math tools and concepts for non-visual learners; low vision adaptations, strategies and use of optical devices; use of the portable notetaker; travel in the community including driving with low vision; social skills and self-determination. Students were taught how to evaluate and match the use of adaptations to meet various needs that arise.
2. 91% of students met the objectives for which they were referred.
3. 97% of responding school districts, parents and students rated their experience in short-term programs as very satisfactory or outstanding.

4. Short-Term programs served a total of 206 students from across the state of Texas, ranging from the Panhandle, to the Valley, and from the western to eastern parts of the state. During this school year, we served students from 19 of the 20 educational regions in the state.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS 2014-2015

1. We offered 25 classes from September through May, including two Low Vision Tools weekends that were specifically designed to serve students with low vision. Due to the high number of applicants to the Iron Chef class, we offered a second class and were able to serve an additional 12 students.

2. 2014-2015 was an active year for STP teachers. Please see the list of accomplishments below:
   - TAER presentation: "No More Math in Your Head: Fostering Success for Your Student Using the Abacus."
   - IPad presentations focusing on curriculum access for October 2014 Low Vision Tools Class and May 2015 NOAH conference.
   - Participated as Guest Lecturer in TTU AT Weekend (BrailleNote & iOS devices)
   - Presented on Apps for ILS at SWOMA
   - Presented at the West Texas Family Conference on Health & Well-Being (Sexuality); collaborated with Ann Adkins, Outreach, and Debra Sewell, Curriculum
   - Departmental book study on Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High.
   - Attended Region IV Digital Learning Conference
   - Attended 2015 TAER conference
   - Teachers collaborated to implement a new learning-station structure for Math for Munchkins model in order to increase our ability to differentiate and meet diverse student needs
   - Presented at NFB Texas Student Seminar on Short-Term Programs
   - Attended the National Braille Association 3-day training session in UEB, "UEBe Ready"
   - All teachers completed the online UEB training modules found at http://uebonline.org/
   - Served as Mentor Center Supervising TVI
   - Offered a new class on Health and Sexuality Education
   - Created new technology lessons for Google Suite and Apple Suite with VoiceOver and JAWS
   - Transitioned and updated all STP Apple resources to the TSBVI website. Now the materials are shared accessible to all who use the TSBVI site.

3. The continued expansion and development of the Short-Term Programs Database was a priority and resulted improvements for TVIs and parents across the state, as well as staff on campus. Users now can quickly submit and track referrals, applications, parent contacts, and all of our other registration forms including the lengthy Med/Diet form. STP

has received positive feedback from parents and TVIs about the ease of use of these new online tools.

4. After-school residential programming provides essential training and practice in areas of independent living, which academic students are often unable to receive during their busy school day. Instruction includes: planning, budgeting, shopping, and cooking related to meal preparation; using the internet to locate restaurants, menus, and other information; applying math concepts in practical activities such as shopping, measuring ingredients, making payments, calculating tax and tip; cleaning, setting the table, using table manners; understanding issues related to good hygiene; asking for information at stores; identifying bills and coins and effectively completing cash transactions; using appropriate etiquette in various settings; accessing public transportation; understanding effective inter-personal communication and conflict resolution strategies; and choosing appropriate community recreation-leisure activities. Healthy food (including discussion about nutrition), as well as exercise options, are encouraged and provided (e.g., swimming, canoeing, yoga, hiking, dancing, playground). Students are also encouraged to participate in some form of creative self-expression (e.g., art, music). Self-determination is encouraged and taught throughout all activities.

5. Short-Term Programs further expanded of the use of technology tools to improve office functioning including: Trello, Google Docs/Sheets/Groups, Adobe Pro, and Constant Contact for email marketing.

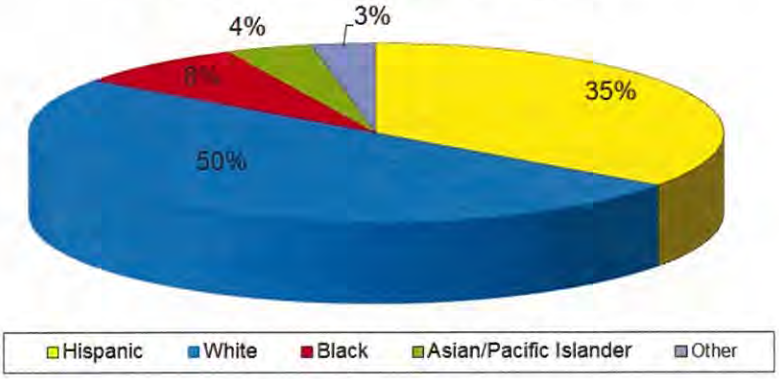
6. STP made progress in supporting students and their teachers after participation in a class by creating and sharing short video clips of students participating in instruction; use of a digital learning platform (Edmodo) to describe the class and provide supportive resources, as well as showing each student participating in instruction.

ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

During the 2014-2015 Short-Term Program school year, 206 students were served, representing 19 education service centers and 86 local school districts.

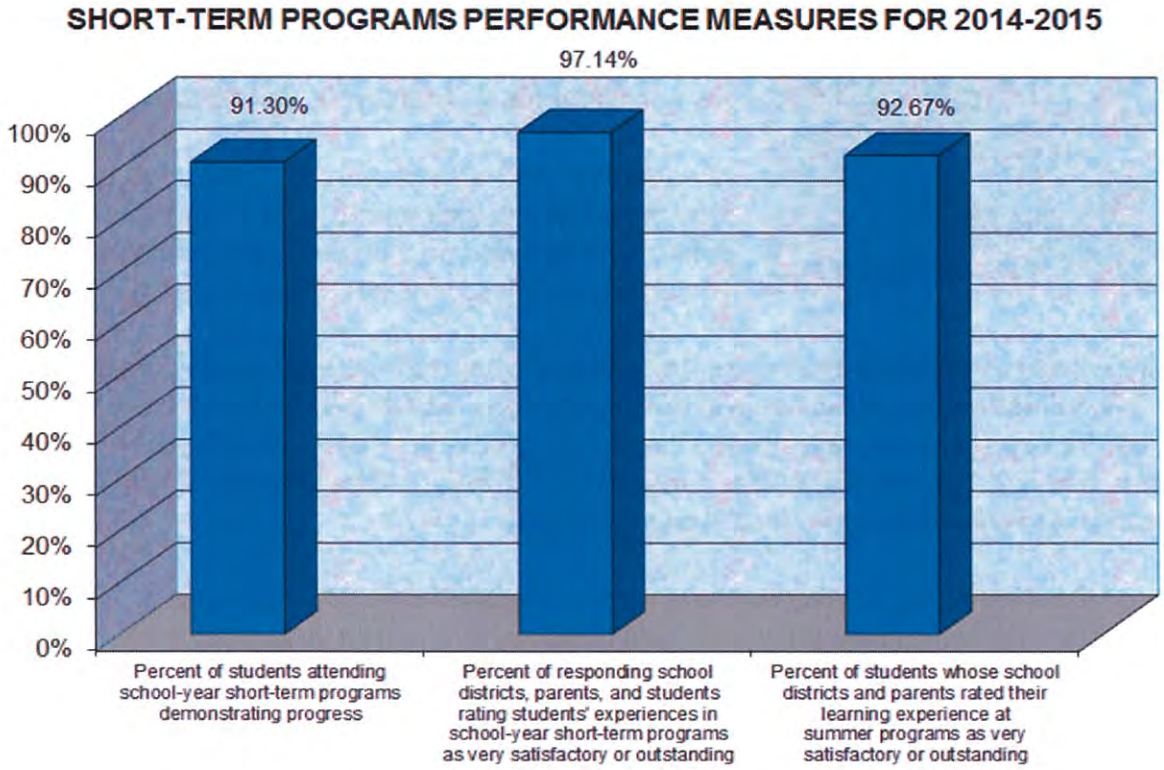
YEAR	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS	194	199	212	218	206

ETHNICITY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2014-2015 SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS



PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES FOR 2014-2015

The following graphs display the achievement of Short-Term Programs in meeting objectives set out in the School's Agency Strategic Plan and in the School Improvement Plan.



SCHOOL YEAR SHORT-TERM SURVEY RESPONSES FROM PARENTS AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

All of the staff are very nice and kind and it is noticeable that they do their jobs with care and drive. I will always be grateful and appreciative for all that you do. It is a very nice school that meets its goals.

Up until now all of the campus our son has attended have helped us a lot, him as well as us. I don't know how to show appreciation for all the help given to my son. It is a great advancement for him. Thank you.

My daughter always comes home from camp a little more mature and definitely more independent. She enjoys the independence and always learns so much! I'm grateful for the experience she has each time she is able to attend TSBVI.

I am extremely pleased. My daughter came back to school with a new sense of empowerment and confidence. The skills she gained will help her learning for the duration of her educational career.

TSBVI is a very special place with amazing staff. My son and I loved our visit and would gladly participate in another program by TSBVI. Thank you for all you did for us!

Everyone very courteous and professional. Thank you for the opportunity to travel with my son and also get and retrieve the information as a parent that is always involved in my son's activities. Thank you, Thank you!!

My daughter had a blast and can't wait to go back. She felt very included and welcomed. She struggles with friends at school and this was an amazing experience for her. Thank you so much for allowing her this opportunity!

This City Travel program quite simply offers students opportunities they would not otherwise have, even if "city infrastructure" is available in their hometown. For those without access to busy streets and public transportation there is no way they could get the level of O&M instruction "City Travel" affords. In addition, the instructional and residential staff were knowledgeable, kind and professional at all times with me as well as my student.

Expanded Core Curriculum... more, more, more! The academic programs are great and certainly necessary, but our academic totally blind kids need so much more than (or in addition) to readin' writin' and 'rithmatic!!! It was a pleasure spending fours days with you folks!

My student came back very excited. She said this was the best weekend of her life. She came back with a much more positive attitude toward using low vision devices.

She came back actually wanting to order low vision devices... Before she did not want to use them at all.

Staff are always very professional, friendly and respectful to students and visitors.

Thanks for always given the opportunity to my students to participate in your short term/summer enrichment programs. They are always looking forward to visit your campus. Parents love your campus/facilities and your staff. I wish we could be closer so we could visit your campus more often.

All of the classes are great! My student has enjoyed and learned from all of them.

I am happy that my student has gotten to participate in several short-term programs this year. It has been a great experience for him.

My student said she had a wonderful time. And after reading the report, it is evident that the students had some incredible experiences!

Loved the details about all of the activities. Also the individual report was very helpful, and the pictures were great!

I was very satisfied with my student's overall experience. She had a great time and came back with more skills in independence. I look forward to her attending more programs at TSBVI.

My student was very tentative about attending the HS Outdoor Challenge. I have been encouraging him to go to a Short Program for two years. I think he finally went just to appease me. He ended up having a great time! He is even considering to apply for a spring program. It was a very beneficial weekend for him.

He was very excited about being able to utilize his low vision aides within his environment. At school we are limited as to how much time can be allotted for these practical endeavors. Being able to discuss and understand his blindness with others with low vision, was very helpful to him. I think that this program instilled in him more confidence in realizing his abilities, instead of focusing on his disability. He readily uses his aids in the school and classroom environment.

I just wanted to thank you again for such excellent programming. I realize that these programs are very difficult to execute... from planning to transportation, to programming...wow! You all need to be commended! Thanks for providing a much needed service to our VI students. Without these programs, our students would be not exposed to these life learning experiences!

Absolutely wonderful, his teachers were great, these ladies went over and beyond. The other staff that assisted were fabulous. The campus is beautiful. Everything is up-to-date.

She said she had a great time. Met some peers. Learned a lot about our Texas government by experiencing it.

I am very pleased that she was able to have this experience. I think it was really good for her to be around visually impaired peers. I just wanted to say thank you again for the wonderful experience that my student was able to be a part of.

My student returned with increased knowledge and skills on the abacus. He was able to complete 3rd grade assignments using the abacus without difficulty. I loved the videos of him working during the class and the communication that his teacher provided. He was very helpful and worked on the skills that my student needed to be successful.

He was so excited about the tools he gained with using the ipad as well as using the computer.

TSBVI's staff is so responsive to my needs and to those of my students. For my student they took such

interest in his experience before and during the Driver's Seat Short Program. And since his return from the Program, he has reported to me that the Program was well worth his time, that he gained so much during the Program, and that he thinks the Program was "Awesome!".

I can say with confidence that the staff members are wonderful in every way, from time of application for a short class to finish. Staff is the BEST!!! They are helpful in every step of the way, and they show sincere interest in my students. I want to say again how thankful I am that the staff and programs offered by TSBVI are so professional and beneficial that I can feel confident when referring my students and their parents.

The professionalism of the driver's course and especially the inclusion of the parents was outstanding. The parent of my student was thrilled with the information presented. Thank you.

I have always been impressed with the professionalism and knowledge of TSBVI and their courteous, helpful attitudes. Thank you!

I am very impressed with this short-term class. My student was so impressed with TSBVI in general that in addition to becoming a teacher, she now wants to become a TVI!

I think TSBVI does a phenomenal job of providing the CTVI's a plethora of useful information. The CTVI's in the state of Texas are lucky to call y'all "OUR state school"!

I was very happy with the program. My student had a terrific time. The socialization aspect I think was so beneficial for him!

He came back feeling very proud of her ability to travel independently to Austin, make new friends, and have fun in a new place. The experience helped my student to feel validated. That experience was more beneficial than any skill she may have picked up in the kitchen-though she was pleased with her results there too. The staff was phenomenal. Every email, message, and phone call was helpful and encouraging. I have enjoyed each interaction with staff and believe they are a terrific team.

My student gained more knowledge than I anticipated him to learn on using VoiceOver on his MacBook. He is much more efficient and effective on his MacBook in his academic classes now that he has returned. His teacher was a wonderful and talented teacher for my student to work with at TSBVI. He remained in contact with him and gave me a great amount of detail on my student's strengths and weaknesses.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

TSBVI Outreach Programs provide information, training and support to families, professionals in education and rehabilitation, and community members involved in the lives of individuals with visual impairments or deafblindness who range in age from birth through twenty-two years old. Our focus is on students and programs in local communities throughout Texas. We bring most of our services directly to local communities and programs.

We provide a variety of services. Outreach assistance is available at little or no charge. Texans can choose the programs they need to support family members and professionals involved with students with visual impairments or deafblindness:

- Individualized local consultations to families, schools, and other related agencies or community organizations
- Training for families, professionals and paraprofessionals through face-to-face workshops and conferences around the state, video-conferencing, and web-based technologies
- Resources on visual impairments and deafblindness such as articles, on-line videos, a newsletter, American Printing House for the Blind (APH) materials, and assistive technology on loan
- Partnering with local, state and national agencies and organizations to help build quality local programs for students with visual impairments and deafblindness

TSBVI Outreach Programs effectively support and complement the personnel available at regional Education Service Centers. Students with visual impairments and deafblindness represent extremely low incidence populations with diverse and unique needs. Districts typically first turn to their regional ESC Consultant in Visual Impairment or Deafblind Specialist. Those professionals in turn refer to the TSBVI Outreach Programs as needed. Outreach training and local support is provided in coordination with regional ESCs for optimal regional follow up. This provides for a strong statewide system to support quality educational programs for students across Texas.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR

- 92.72% of Outreach customers rated the improvement of their knowledge and skills as very satisfactory or outstanding as a result of services received from the Outreach program.

- In 2014-2015 the Outreach staff made 108 local visits for school consultation to districts and adult group home settings across Texas. These visits have documented success: 100% of respondents reported a positive change for the student, staff or family as a result of school consultation visits by Outreach staff. Staff provided this intensive consultation

support, often with multiple visits to a program, for 77 students in 60 individual districts/ programs. This is an increase in the number of districts that requested this service last year. School consultations are arranged based upon local requests.

- Requests for workshops and training come from around the state and nation: TSBVI Outreach presented or facilitated 246 conferences and/or workshop sessions at local districts, at regional service centers, and at statewide and national venues, including via distance technologies, for 6,620 participants. The use of distance training tools supports access to quality training for people who might otherwise not be able to attend, and wider dissemination of training materials.

- The VISSIT (Visual Impairment Scale of Service Intensity of Texas), a tool for making recommendations on the type and amount of services by teachers of students with visual impairments, has been disseminated statewide. This year, data is being gathered to assess its impact. This tool supports the implementation of new legislation that mandates evaluation and instruction in the Expanded Core Curriculum, instructional areas uniquely impacted by the presence of visual impairment.

- This past year 50 video-conference and web-based presentations were offered, an increase from the previous year. Web-based broadcasts have replaced the statewide TETN videoconference system for TSBVI's distance education productions. Web-based presentations can directly link with personal computers and mobile devices, thus increasing their accessibility. Most presentations were archived and posted on the website for later viewing. Web-based study groups allowed professionals in their local communities to connect for scheduled topical discussions. This technology allows participants to access expert assistance and a peer group for discussion without the costs of time and travel.

- The TSBVI On-the-Go Learning website, http://www.tsbvi.edu/on-the-go-learning, linked to the main TSBVI webpage, was greatly expanded and revised. It provides an organized venue for accessing anytime, anywhere training on VI and DB issues. 91 Educational videos were posted in the past year with 2,765 hours of estimated usage.

- Distance instruction is valuable for introducing new concepts and building awareness, but less effective at fostering intensive skill development. Also, evaluation data clearly indicates higher levels of satisfaction with in-person workshops where questions can be answered immediately and more hands-on, experiential training can occur. There were several statewide conferences sponsored by TSBVI Outreach, including: Introduction to the Intervener Team Model, Braille "Boot Camp", Active Learning Strategies, the DB

Symposium and pre-conference, Low Vision Conference, 3 Mentor Centers, Mentor Training, and Interaction Analysis for students who are deafblind.

- TSBVI is an active partner in professional development of new teachers of students with visual impairments and certified orientation and mobility specialists. With the support of the TSBVI's state and federal funds and the TSBVI VI mentor program, 58 new VI professionals were employed in Texas.

- Families have a long term impact on the outcome of their children with disabilities' educational programs. In collaboration with the Division of Blind Services, TSBVI Outreach Programs were key partners in a Personal Family Leadership series that increased family skills to advocate for the needs of their child as well as learning how to help other parents. Over the past 10 years, 150 family members have attended family leadership training.

- TSBVI Outreach members are active collaborators with regional and statewide entities, including the West Texas Cluster, the Low Functioning Deaf planning committee, Personnel Preparation Group, State Leadership Services for Students who are Blind and Visually Impairmed, the Texas Assistive Technology Network, family organizations in the wider disability field such as Parent to Parent and Texas Hands and Voices as well as blindness related family groups, the Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans, the Texas Action Committee for the Education of Students with Visual Impairments and the Texas Interagency Task Force on Deafblindness.

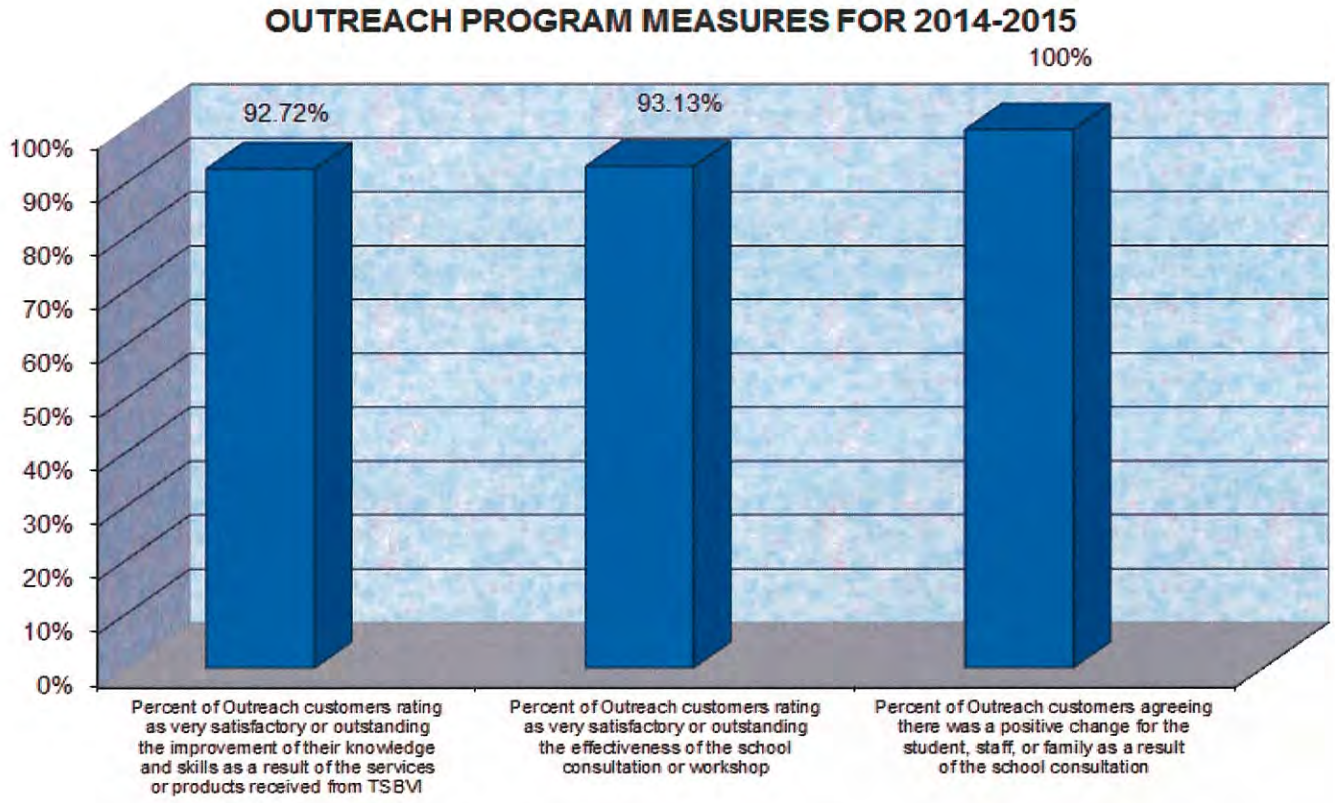
- The Texas Deafblind Project members have participated as key creators in developing Web-based, open source modules for training paraeducators in the role of intervener. This past year staff participated in beta testing the existing modules and the development of a credentialing process. The TX Deafblind Project has been working with community college settings to embed the modules into their curriculum so that comprehensive training can be provided across the state.

- The TSBVI website continues to provide valuable information and support to people across the globe. In 2014-2015 the site was visited in excess of 762,000 times with over 1,608,919 pages viewed. Guests to the site originated in 225 countries including the United Kingdom, India, Mexico, South Africa and Pakistan. The site is one of the primary locations for VI information in Spanish, as the listing of countries accessing www.tsbvi.edu documents shows.

- In the 2014-2015 year, Outreach presentations included:
  Braille production and producing tactile graphics, bonding and relaxation techniques for families with young children, audiology and orientation for students with deafblindness, the use of optical devices, planning for the future, a statewide Symposium on Deafblindness, new math technology and accessible math tools, orientation and mobility curriculum, interaction strategies for students with deafblindness, quality programming for students with visual impairments, the intervener team model, working with children who have cortical visual impairment or optic nerve hypoplasia, laws and rules affecting students with visual impairments, interactions and routines for students with multiple disabilities and deafblindness, Active Learning techniques, braille music production, family leadership, technology to support hearing, the role of a teacher for students with deafblindness, many aspects related to literacy, special education law for family members, math braille symbols and rules, serving students in the preschool age group, and presentations at family weekends around the state.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES FOR 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR

The following graphs display the achievement of Outreach Programs in meeting objectives set out in the School's Agency Strategic Plan and in the School Improvement Plan.



OUTREACH PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS FROM PARENTS AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Outreach Workshops

The Outreach presenter was great as usual. I love that he provides an atmosphere where learning is taking place in such a comfortable environment and where people are free to ask questions without feeling intimidated.

Great presenter. Very patient and informative. Great information to share with all teachers.

You did an outstanding job and helped me to improve my skills also!

Interesting information and very important in today's world.

Wonderful information on environmental sounds.

I got some neat ideas from the training that I am going to try.

I am so happy we have a great source to count on when we need help. Gracias. Very good information to have.

Presenters were very knowledgeable about topic and kept listeners well informed. Awesome job.

Awesome job. I am glad we have access to wealth of valuable information at our finger tips. Keep it up!

I found this way of looking at sensory efficiency for students in the sensorimotor stage very interesting. I'm looking forward to applying these ideas as I go forward in evaluations.

Videos were great with lots of good information.

The Outreach presenter did an amazing job. Thank you so much for showing very clearly these very useful tips.

This training presented totally new information to me since I have primarily worked with younger children. I hope that my district can begin to replicate some of the successes for all of our transitions age students that you all are beginning to have at TSBVI.

Information was very relevant to a student with whom I am currently working.

Very informative, good for those of us beginning to work with the deafblind population.

Thanks for a super job well done!

Great conference....outdid yourself this time.

I was pleased with the organization of the conference and the variety and quality of the presentations I attended.

Well planned, good location, very good selection of presentations/presenters.

This conference was fantastic and well worth the time and money. Great sessions and organization.

I learned several new ideas and I was impressed with all the presenters.

The hands on activities were neat! Overall, everything was perfect!

It was a very informative conference. I really liked how practical it was and how varied the topics were. Great job!

Great job! Well organized, ran very smooth. Nice variation of topics.

I found the information extremely enlightening.

The information I learned was extremely relevant to both myself and the parent who attended with me.

This session was incredibly informative! I am sill trying to process all the information presented. Very knowledgeable presenter.

Once again TSBVI has organized and presented superb educational training, my hats off...You guys "ROCK". Thanks for an awesome job well done.

This was an excellent conference...I loved both panels, the way we shared info which was then put into a dropbox, the presentations by both speakers...it just could not have been any better.

This was one of the best workshops I've attended in the field. It was great to have the mix of people with low vision speaking and a chance to brainstorm/ discuss lesson plans in the short activities. Well done!!!

This conference and in particular the low vision panel and the 10 minute ECC stations were fabulous! I loved the short and sweet pace of it, the various topics and the opportunity to hear others' ideas while

in a small "safe" environment. We met new people and had the opportunity to form some bonds. I learned a lot and really enjoyed it.

A symposium that combines the knowledge, ideas and networking with the US field of deafblindness; the best! This was actually the nationally deafblind conference, right! Thank you so much.

I always come back from Austin with a renewed spirit in working with my DB students. It is an honor to be part of the efforts made to education students with DB.

I truly enjoyed my first visit to the symposium. All of the presenters were top-notch, and those running the conference were extremely professional and accommodating. Great job!

Symposium on Deafblindness continues to probably be the best conference in our profession! Thank you for all the hard work to continue to bring to us amazing speakers and information!

The keynotes were awesome. Lots of very relevant breakout sessions, not just for professionals, for also for parents. The symposium is one of the only events where educators and parents have the opportunity to feel that they are on the same team…never underestimate the value of this!

Texas has some amazing people in the world of O&M and VI. Presenters were extremely knowledgeable and answered questions in a way that was easily understandable.

So appreciate the staff at TSBVI for opening their doors to us, answering our questions, sharing their knowledge, etc. Such an awesome place!!!

The presenters were excellent! They were very helpful and willing to discuss everything they do. I enjoyed the teachers and seeing them in action. They were amazing.

It was an excellent experience. Great staff from the custodians to everyone that I came into contact with. This was well planned and I am very pleased I came. Observations were wonderful and I am taking much information home.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Such a wonderful learning experience – I really enjoyed the learning opportunities over the past two days. Teachers were so patient, friendly and helpful. Totally awesome experience. TSBVI Rocks!!!

Don't change anything. This was my first time and I learned, observed so many things I can't wait to share with my students. It was great! I feel blessed!

Very, very impressed. I feel (and heard several others say the same) that everyone here seems to be very happy to be here.

So well organized, paced carefully and relevant, hand-on information can begin using immediately.

These two staff were fantastic presenters. Both were very thorough and knowledgeable. Great job! Love, love, loved the training!! Please offer this again!

Fabulous presentation. A great resource. I'm confident that I can implement this training and I will definitely use it. The best training in my 17 years.

Excellent presentations and presenters. Would like to thank you for keeping us parents involved with our children. Your information has been excellent and my son is so happy and I can feel more comfortable of you passing your knowledge. Thank you, thank you!!

The expertise from all presenters was outstanding. The information I received can translate into my life and I know my daughter was thoroughly impressed.

I really appreciate all the hard work that everyone has put into this weekend. We have gained so much knowledge as well as met parents that we can network with. I am so thankful that TSBVI put together a program like this for all these kids.

Amazing day. Our students and teachers learned so much. Too many things to list. This is great training and I have benefited both times this training has been offered to our region. Thank you!

Fantastic workshop! Great real world experience for our kids. Can't wait for you to come back again!

Team Outreach demonstrated so much compassion to the family…they are awesome.

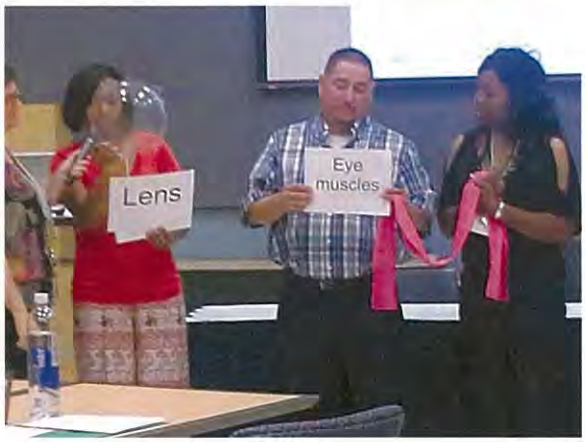
This will be my first year in a special ed classroom with students that are on the autistic spectrum and those with Down's Syndrome, so I am grateful for the foundation laid here. I have ideas to start my planning for the coming year.

School Consultations

Thank you for your enlightened support and knowledge.

This was very helpful. I gained an abundance of knowledge. I am eager to start to implement new ideas with my student.

Ideas for staff to implement into IEP very practical and easy to implement.



I appreciate the time and effort that was given during the visit. Very informative. I feel the staff has a better understanding of what needs to be accomplished for this student.

Very insightful – helped expand my thoughts on his needs, wants and communication.

Learned a lot of good information to help plan for his education and in our home.

Very good visit! Learned lots and Outreach staff was very knowledgeable.

Wonderful staff, very positive and enlightening. They were able to explain the needs of the student without stepping on anyone's toes and delivered an unbiased opinion about an intervener that the parents were able to trust and respect.

I am grateful for Outeach staffs' consultation. They were able to provide valuable feedback to our team, and offered guidance for our programming decisions as we learn to best meet the needs of our student. They provided concrete examples of ways to implement new instructional strategies and have offered to follow up and continue to support our efforts. It was wonderful to get their insight and feedback.

Thank you to your staff. Your advice has immeasurable value to us and our student's team. We look forward to sharing his success with you!

Staff has learned great strategies to help our students communicate through symbols. This visit was very informational and was presented very well so parent and school personnel were able to comprehend.

Outreach staff knew exactly what information would be effective for our student and her team and was able to explain strategies that would be beneficial for her without overwhelming them. In my follow up visits, I can see that the staff is really enthusiastic about the strategies he shared with them and eager to learn more! It was a very positive and uplifting experience for all involved. It is easy to see that the teachers are excited about the new information and following through on recommendations as our student is increasing her interactions with others through plan and sign language! Thank you!

Excellent – very informative. Much needed support for our student. Top notch representatives from TSBVI.

I'm glad that we had the opportunity for TSBVI to come out and shadow our student! I really appreciate the Outreach staff member's positivity!!! We all want what's best for our student and to hear that there are a lot of things that our teachers are doing "right" made everyone feel good!

We are experiencing a more higher level of confidence in helping our student. Recommendations are feasible and very clear. Gentlemen were very professional and knowledgeable about helping our student. They offered great insight on how to continue to help our student.

OTHER SERVICES TO PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The Curriculum Department at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired develops curriculum written by teachers and other certified professionals serving students with blindness and visual impairments. Curriculum and resource guides are developed, peer-reviewed, published, and sold worldwide to assist the certified teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI), the certified orientation and mobility specialist (COMS), the classroom teacher, and the family in the delivery of instruction in the areas of the Core Curriculum and Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC). ECC programming includes: independent living; career education; assistive technology; compensatory skills instruction such as concept development and braille; orientation and mobility; and sensory efficiency skills. Each guide contains evaluation tools and instructional methodology.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014-2015

- A total of 3,085 publications were sold in fiscal year 2015. This includes print and braille (3,009), videos (23) and CDs (53).
- *TAPS Orientation and Mobility Curriculum,* 3rd Edition, was at the top of our best-seller list. We sold 268 of the curriculum set, and 246 of the evaluation booklet, and 134 supplemental flash drives, making a total of 648.
- *Calendars for Students with Multiple Impairments* came in second at 646 copies sold.
- 258 copies of the *Learning Media Assessment* publication, 248 copies of the *Independent Living Assessment and Ongoing Evaluation*, 140 copies of the EVALS publication, and 113 copies of the *Low Vision Guide* were also sold during the school year.
- The curriculum department submitted an additional course to TEA to provide instruction in areas related to the ECC. This course, Assistive Technology, was approved, and can now be taught for state elective credit towards graduation. Lesson plans are currently being written for this new innovative course.
- The Curriculum department provides support to classroom teachers in daily instruction, including the development of standards-based/measurable IEPs and appropriate curriculum.
- Curriculum is being adapted for students receiving modified instruction in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. AGS curriculum products from Pearson, and The Unique Learning System program are being used as the basis for some of these courses.

- This department is collaborating with the career education department to support the implementation of curriculum for the General Employability course and the Methodologies for Academic and Personal Success (MAPS) courses.
- Development continues on the following publications:
  - Nemeth Code Guidebook
  - Update of the Braille FUNdamentals curriculum from EBAE to UEB
  - FVE/LMA Guidebook
  - Yoga curriculum designed to support O&M concepts
  - EXIT curriculum designed for students who have received credits for graduation and are working on skills needed for adult life
  - Early Intervention O&M Curriculum.
- The curriculum department provides training, in Texas as well as out of state, on the use our publications.
- The Curriculum Director continues to evaluate and refine the performance indicator evaluation tools that guide IEP development and instruction for TSBVI students.
- The Curriculum Director continues to submit a report to TEA detailing the yearly progress made by our students as determined by our Performance Indicator Evaluations. As in the past few years, TSBVI exceeded the expectations set by the Texas Education Agency.

TSBVI's WEB SITE: www.tsbvi.edu

TSBVI hosts several websites that are the go-to resources for parents, educators and professionals of visually impaired / multiply impaired persons around the world. The site is continuously being updated with valuable, accessible content concerning visual impairment and the education of blind and visually impaired persons.

In January 2014, we released an upgraded, redesigned website in response to the surveys conducted in 2013 which highlighted opportunities for improvement. The new design extended the level of accessibility to users with low vision and users of assistive technology, improved security, and provided a more scalable version of the site to meet the growth projection of the next two years.

The websites were visited more than 762,000 times. Over 1,608,919 pages were viewed by users from 225 countries around the Earth including United Kingdom, India, Mexico, South Africa and Pakistan.

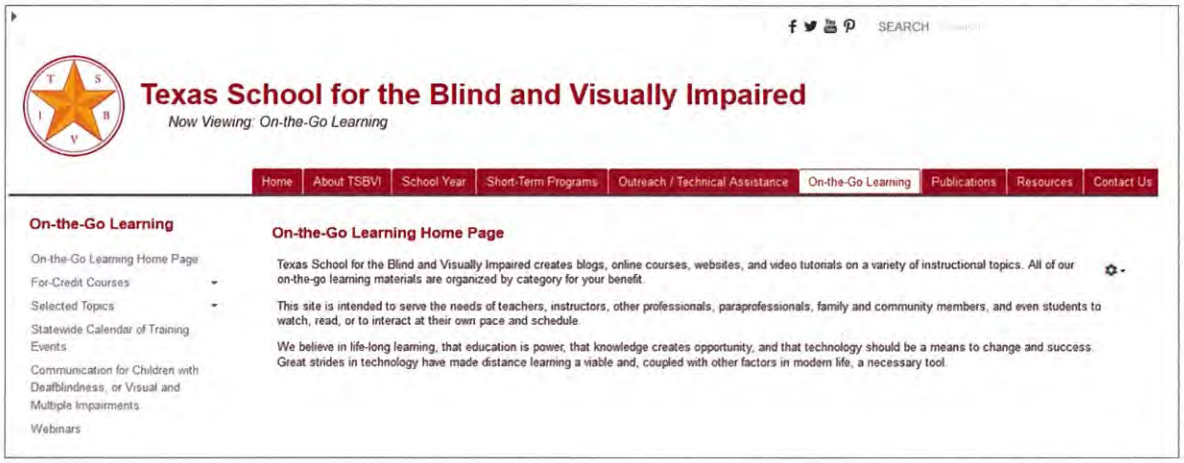
The most popular pages visited on the website last year were:

- Project Math Access: Basic Concepts
- Resources
- Current Job Vacancies and Application Information
- Tactile Symbols Directory to Standard Tactile Symbol List
- Math Project Access: One-to-One Correspondence and Counting Skills

The Alexa.com global site ranking for TSBVI.edu improved by more than 30,000 positions in 2014, outpacing the websites of strong community allies such as Perkins, Pearson, and American

Foundation for the Blind. In fact, alongside American Printing House for the Blind, TSBVI.edu is the highest ranked resource for persons seeking information on topics related to visual impairments. The site is one of the primary locations for VI information in Spanish, driving the increase in traffic from Spanish-speaking countries.

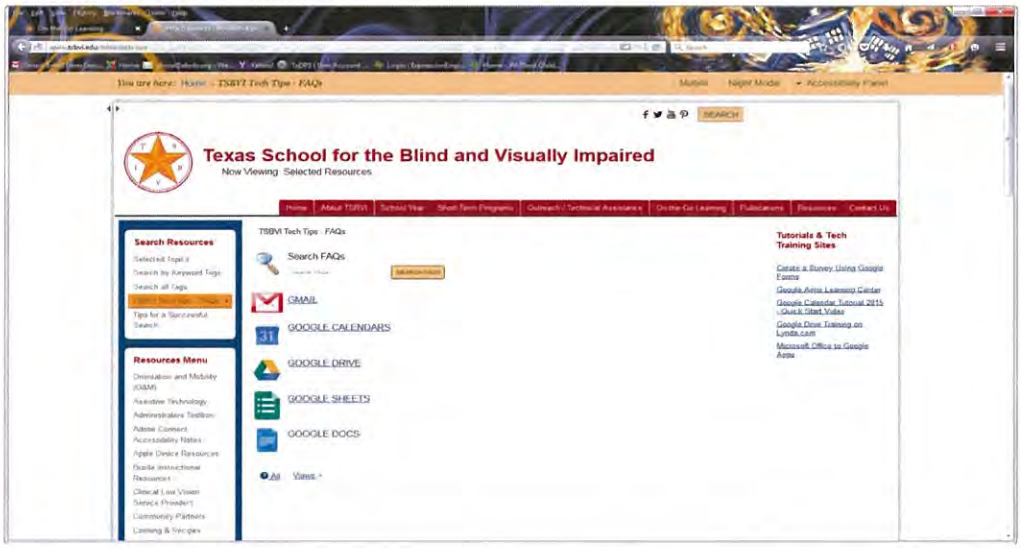
Gaining in popularity last year were our newly released 'On-the-Go Learning' section and our 'TSBVI Tech Tips FAQ' section. Also added to the website last year were an updated 'Resources'



section, an 'Archive' for retaining out-of-date content, and the interactive site for 'Teachers of Students with Deafblindness'.

In an ongoing effort to provide training to TSBVI staff members, we developed and presented training sessions to our Joomla content editors, Google Apps users, Constant Contact users and Social Media participants.

Training was attended and development began for an improved search engine based on Apache Solr for the website. This search engine will improve the results of searches made on the site and will include in the search results all websites with TSBVI data including the media library. The Solr engine is scheduled for completion in December, 2015.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM 2014-2015

TSBVI has an active volunteer program with participation by many members of the Austin community both individually and in groups. TSBVI works with community groups who want to perform a community service and chooses to do so at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. During the 2014-15 school year, we experienced several wonderful group projects that benefited the students.

- TSBVI was again a project of The Junior League of Austin, whose members recorded and scanned dozens of books for the library.
- Members of Delta Gamma Fraternity at University of Texas made tactile symbols, hosted a Thanksgiving dinner, a Valentine's party, and Easter party and a graduation party for the students at their sorority house, helped out at Parent Weekend with decorations, serving and face painting, and helped the students dress for the prom. Delta Gamma members at the University of North Texas made tactile Valentine's Day cards for the students and helped with at the swim meet. Several Delta Gamma college chapters and Alumnae chapters collected and sent the school "box tops for education" or hand-made tactile cards at holidays. Delta Gamma's national philanthropy is Service for Sight, and the close location to TSBVI affords the two university Delta Gamma chapters to spread their love, friendship and fun to the students of TSBVI.
- Gardeners from Austin Community Gardens worked with TSBVI students in the garden and greenhouse.
- Many bicycle riders from the community joined the students each Monday evening in early fall and late spring on the "Lend Your Legs" bicycle ride.
- The AT&T Pioneers provided a beeping Easter Egg Hunt for students, sponsored by the Student Council.
- The Austin Downtown Club Lions supported many student activities, including the TSBVI Leo Club, sponsored by staff member Patti Robinson, who was aided by several volunteers. They also planned and participated in planting trees in Bastrop during the school-wide Day of Service on January 19, and brought in a Humvee and motorcycles to Parent Weekend.
- Lions participated in Parent Weekend by providing Vision and Health Screening and bringing Leader Dogs.
- UT student Kristan Schiele organized a Science Fun Day Camp at the school for the second year with Women in the Natural Sciences Organization and teacher Laura Hospital.

- Graduate students from the University of Texas Neuro-Outreach brought a brain activity for students to learn how nerve cells of the brain work make muscles work.
- Volunteers helped during Parent Weekend with Spanish translation, child care, facepainting, lunchroom duty and helper in many of the activities of the day.

The individual volunteer program involves members of the community who choose to spend some time out of their personal lives to provide a service to students and staff at TSBVI. University of Texas students, folks living in the area around the school, and others who just have a desire to serve, are among those who volunteer here each semester. Volunteers are placed in specific school or after-school assignments for at least an hour a week.

Individual volunteers performed these services during the year:

- Pitched in and helped at the 2015 Parent Weekend event in November by setting up and taking down decorations, serving and cleaning up at lunch, providing childcare, helping in many carnival activities including face painting, supervising games and helping out wherever needed.
- Future physical education teachers volunteered in the PE department, gaining valuable experience in working with visually impaired and mobility impaired students.
- Worked with students in a braille reading class
- Assisted in physical education classes
- Helped in swim classes
- Assisted in the science lab
- Helped out at Parent Weekend
- Tutored math individually and in math study hall
- Tutored chemisty and physics
- Taught violin to students
- Assisted in elementary pep squad and regular cheerleader practice
- Helped with arts and crafts activities in a dorm
- Prepared materials for teachers
- Helped organize the warehouse
- Three University of Texas football players voluneered in Goalball with students
- Assisted a class grocery shopping
- Assisted in the science lab

Students and staff benefit from the program by getting help, often one-on-one, from a member of the Austin community. Volunteers benefit from getting to know our students, learning from and observing our staff at work, and providing an appreciated service to the School. Evaluations at the end of each semester often indicate how much the volunteers enjoyed working at TSBVI and how much they learned from the experience.

During the 2014-15 school year, more than 120 individual volunteers logged in over 1500 hours working at TSBVI. Independent Sector, a leadership forum for non-profits, estimates the dollar value of volunteer time in 2014 at $23.07 per hour; therefore TSBVI benefited from over $34,605 worth of community volunteer time!

TSBVI Major Donors 2014-2015

$25,000

Professional Contract Services, Inc.

$500 - $20,000

David Lykes

Junior League of Austin

Freescale Foundation

Point Venture Lions Club

All Blind Children of Texas

Austin Downtown Lions Club

Sunshine Community Gardens

Austin Council of the Blind

Dallas Association for the Blind

Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union

Delta Gamma Fraternity, University of Texas

Delta Gamma Fraternity, Texas Tech University

Betty & Barney Schultz

$100 to $499

Debbie Louder

M. Ramanathan

Austin Community Foundation

A. J. Butt

Melinda Taylor

Diane Nousanen

Abigail & Richard Dusansky

Mighty Nest, Inc.

Dr. Nanette Stephens

Virginia Sylvester

CONCLUSION

The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is widely referenced wherever groups of blindness professionals are gathered, and stays that way through a process of continuous improvement and innovation in all of its programs. Moving forward, TSBVI is positioning itself to reach wider audiences through new media approaches, and to facilitate greater growth among the students, families and educational organizations we serve. It has been the consistent and informed support given to our school by the Texas Legislature that has been the largest single factor in our success, because it has allowed us to recruit and retain people who have a passion for TSBVI's mission and who have expertise that is second to none.

TEXAS

1