Short Term Program Classes
Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

The back (second) page lists our schedule of short-term program classes for the coming school year. Many of your children have attended short-term classes in the past. Others among you may not yet be familiar with these classes.

Short-Term Classes are designed for academic level students who are functioning at or close to grade level:

🌟 Monday-to-Friday Classes. These are highly intensive classes focusing on adaptive skills needed by visually impaired learners in order to obtain ACCESS to the regular core curriculum. Typical ratios are a teacher and teacher assistant with two or three students who are working on similar objectives. Students' local teachers of the visually impaired select their student’s objectives through discussion with TSBVI teachers. Our goal is for students to quickly learn skills that help improve their performance in the regular school curriculum. For example, we can provide concentrated attention to aspects of technology, tactile graphics, math or science tools and concepts, etc. Technology instruction can include computers (e.g., keyboard commands, MS Word, PowerPoint, or Excel, Internet, external devices), notetakers (e.g., BrailleNote, PacMate), screen readers (e.g., JAWS, ZoomText), Low Vision Devices (e.g., a wide range of desktop and portable magnifiers, as well as many low tech strategies), scan-read software that lets students scan their books into their computers, and many other devices. Students in all classes receive training in social and independent living skills after school on the dorm. They also complete certain homework brought from home.

🌟 Expanded Weekend Classes. These classes also focus on skills needed by visually impaired learners, but they may be less intensive and academic in nature. Different classes could contain training in: use of low vision tools and strategies, career exploration, mobility, independent living skills, personal and interpersonal growth, self-advocacy, outdoor adventure, the school prom. The ability to learn alongside other visually impaired students and adults can be a life changing opportunity that enhances self-esteem and leads to greater motivation in approaching life’s personal and academic challenges.

Referrals to Short-Term Program classes must come from the local school district. Students may attend more than one class. Parents can learn more by contacting their child’s local teacher of the visually impaired, or by calling the principal of the TSBVI Short-Term Programs (see contact information below). Classes tend to fill up early, so we encourage you to call soon.

To read about Short-Term Programs, or to begin the referral process, go to: [http://www.tsbvi.edu/short-term-programs](http://www.tsbvi.edu/short-term-programs)

Lauren Newton, principal
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Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS for ACADEMIC STUDENTS
School Year 2010 - 2011

Fall Semester 2010

- September 12–17  Elementary Access to Academic Skills #1 (grades 3-5)
- September 12–15** Low Vision Tools & Strategies: Elementary (grades 4-6)
- September 23–26** Austin City Limits: Singing & Songwriting (grades 8-12)
- October 3–8  Junior Access to Academic Skills #1 (grades 6-8)
- October 24–29 High School Access to Academic Skills #1 (grades 9-12)
  - Individualized instruction in areas of Expanded Core Curriculum OR
  - Special Focus: Preparing for College
- Oct. 31–Nov. 5 Accessible Math Tools: Algebra, Geometry, and Beyond
- November 11–14** Low Vision Tools & Strategies: Secondary (grades 8-12)
- December 2–5** High School Independence Weekend #1: Camping (grades 9-12)
- December 9–12** Elementary School Independence Weekend #1 (ages 6-8)

Spring Semester 2011

- January 9–14 High School Access to Academic Skills #2 (grades 9-12)
- January 20–23** Looking Good: Personal Appearance and Social Skills (grades 8-12)
- Jan. 30–Feb. 4 Elementary Access to Academic Skills #2 (grades 3-5)
- February 10–13** Junior Independence Weekend: Iron Chef (grades 6-8)
- February 20–25 Junior Access to Academic Skills #2 (grades 6-8)
- March 4–7** City Travel for COMS and Their Students (secondary)
- April 7–10** Elementary School Independence Weekend #2 (ages 9-11)
- April 14–19** Capitol Experience: The Legislative Process Up Close (grades 8-12)
- April 28–May 1** Braille Festival (grades 6-9)
- May 12–15** High School Independence Weekend #2: Prom (grades 10-12)

** Weekend Programs

Contact: Lauren Newton, Principal
TSBVI Special Programs
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★ Access = Needed by visually impaired students in order to access the core curriculum. Goals for Access to Academics classes are individualized by request, and could include areas such as technology, tactile graphics, math or science tools, ILS, and other areas from the Expanded Core Curriculum.

May ‘10