

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Annual Report

**For School Year
2017-2018**



**William Daugherty
Superintendent**

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(512) 454-8631 ✦ 1-800-TSB-KARE ✦
www.tsbvi.edu

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A Message from the Superintendent 2017-2018



The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is widely regarded as one of the premier organizations of its type in the world. Such an audacious claim always gives me pause when I say it, and I say it a lot. But I don't have to pause long before someone in Texas, from out of state, or from another country, tells me the exact same thing. As disingenuous as it is for me to do so, I often act as if it is a completely unexpected surprise when someone tells me about how wonderful TSBVI is.

People often mean different things when they express their appreciation of TSBVI. Students and their families praise the school for the transformational impact TSBVI has had on their lives. Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS) working in Texas ISDs and ESCs praise TSBVI regarding the many ways we reach out to support their local efforts so that students can be more successfully educated in their home communities. Educators from across America and around the globe praise TSBVI for all of the curricular materials and web-based resources our school develops and shares beyond our campus. One of my favorites is when visitors come to our Austin campus and share with me about the school's welcoming and inclusive nature. As one visitor recently said in speaking about our school, "This place is what is special about special education."

The 2017-2018 school year was excellent on all fronts. One exception we have to own up to is TSBVI's performance on statewide testing. With the elimination of the modified version of the STAAR test, our scores took a dip. But it is the nature of TSBVI to study our shortcomings and set about addressing them, and the current year will see improvement on that front. Thankfully, our measures on student performance related to their Individualized Education Programs (IEP), show that student learning is exceptionally high. It is the skills in the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) designed for students with visual impairments that are the substance of this second performance measure, and the attainment of these skills is the primary reason school districts refer students to TSBVI.

The vast majority of students with visual impairments in Texas are enrolled in their local school districts, and TSBVI long ago made the decision to partner with schools across the state to ensure that all students have access to a quality education regardless of where they are enrolled. In 2017-2018 we continued to make great strides in how our Short Term Programs and Statewide Outreach efforts support and build local capacity in Texas schools. TSBVI's teacher training partnerships with Texas Tech and Stephen F. Austin State Universities continue to produce the most TVIs and COMS in the nation, and this program ensures that students have access to a qualified teacher in school districts large and small, urban and rural.

In 2017-2018, TSBVI graduated or transitioned back to their local schools 1/3 of its student body. A like number of new students have been enrolled at TSBVI for the current school year. This is just how the Texas and TSBVI system is supposed to work; students coming and going according to their educational needs, all being supported by TSBVI, the ESCs, the ISDs, the two university programs, and our partners in the Texas Workforce Commission. This network of organizations actively working together sets Texas apart from most other states, and it is something that TSBVI has helped to create and sustain.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the citizens of Texas and all of those interested in ensuring that students with visual impairments, blindness and DeafBlindness have access to a quality education, will be able to count on TSBVI to do whatever it takes to make learning accessible. I hope this annual report shows TSBVI's commitment and success in a way that honors our extraordinary students, faculty, and staff.

William Daugherty



In Memory of
Case Bradley Beken
January 22, 2004 – September 9, 2018

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 1887 – the Institute for Deaf, Dumb and Blind Colored Youths. In 1917 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. The Texas Blind, Deaf & Orphan School for African-American students was integrated into the Texas School for the Blind in 1965. 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 2017-2018 the staff of TSBVI was comprised of approximately 371 full-time equivalent 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, transportation and security staff, among others.

The Board of Trustees

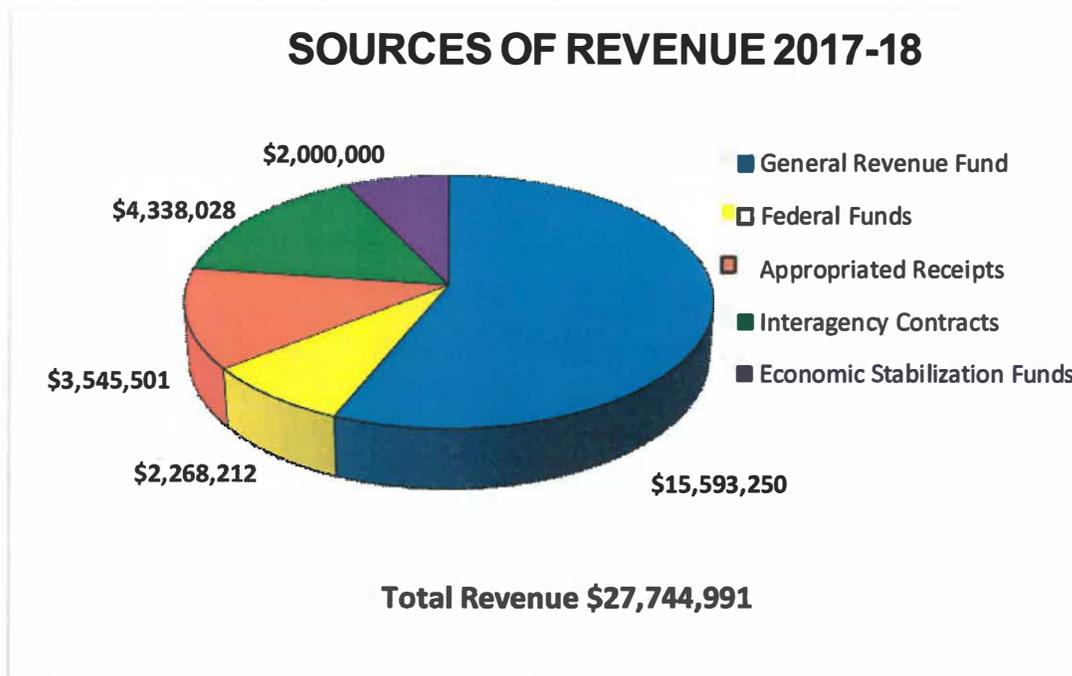
The School is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, which is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Board is comprised of three members who are blind or visually impaired, three who have experience working in the field of visual impairment, and three who are parents of a child 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 and information sharing and collaboration between the local district and TSBVI 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.



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.

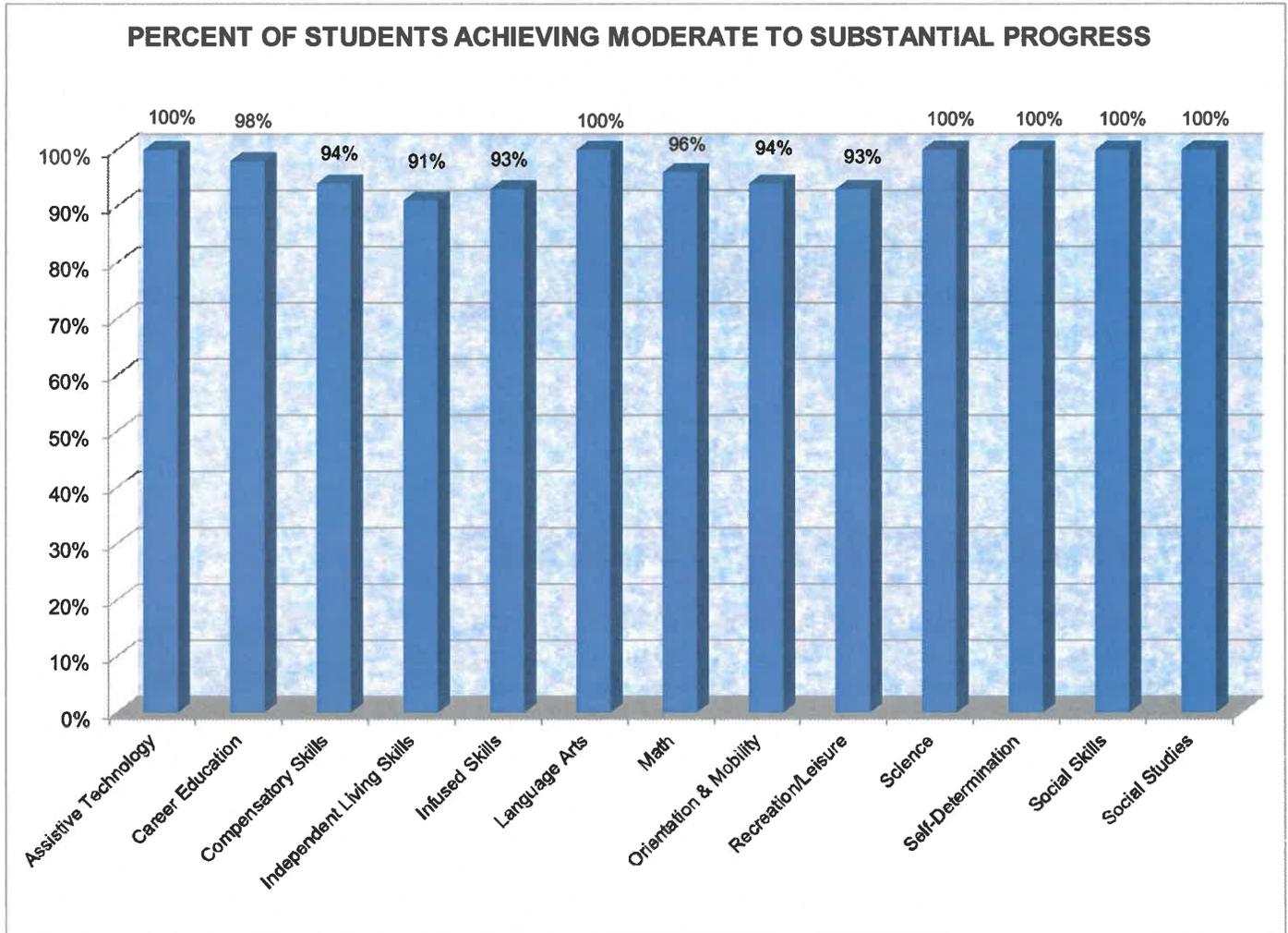
Districts refer students for placement to acquire a student-specific set of skills that, once learned, will allow the student to return to education in the home community. At TSBVI, students receive intensive instruction in all areas of the curriculum including braille reading and writing, orientation 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 Workforce Commission – Division for 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 2017-2018 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. 84.55% 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:

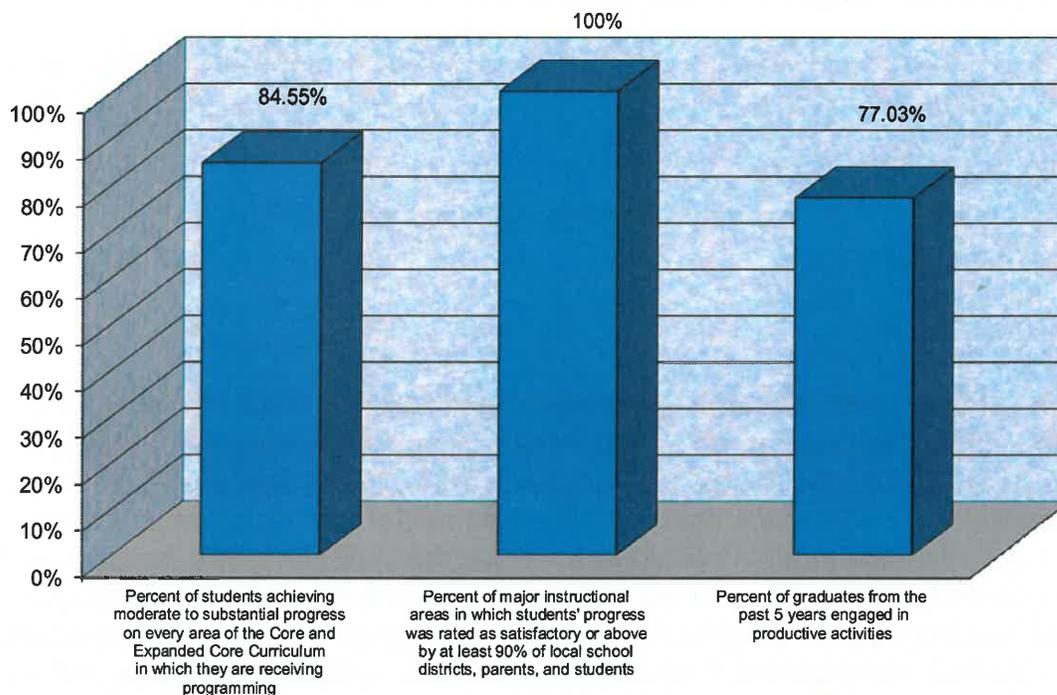


** Infused Skills (for multiply impaired students)—Social Communicative Interactions, Emotional Development, Senses and Motor Skills, Basic Concepts, Representation/Cognition (including basic math and language arts skills)

- 46.39% of all statewide assessment tests taken met or exceeded the state passing standards.
- The Texas Education Agency reported that special education students in Texas passed the STAAR 3-8 and STAAR End-of-Course exams at a rate of 38% in the 2017-2018 school year. The percentage of these tests passed by TSBVI students was 30%.
- 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.

- 77.03% 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).

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS MEASURES FOR 2017-2018



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS



CODING CLASS

For the past three years we have offered a Coding Club for students that met once a week in the evenings. This fall we began offering a Coding Class that meets three times per week. From the very first lesson students begin programming within a game-like environment on the iPad known as the Swift Playground. The curriculum was created by Apple for students to learn the concepts and terminology of programming by writing code to move an animated character called Byte through his world. As the students progress through the lessons they build upon the knowledge and skills of previous activities. Part of the students' experiences with the Playground, as the first Coding Class learning Swift among schools for the blind in the U.S., is providing valuable feedback to Apple with hopes that we can inspire other schools for the blind and visually impaired to begin similar classes.

THE MAKER SPACE

This past summer an area of the Learning Resource Center was officially converted into a Maker Space. Maker Spaces are becoming more and more common in public and school libraries. The goal is to encourage development of 21st Century skills especially collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication. Students are presented with a challenge and asked to design a solution. They start the process researching the problem and then use design tools to sketch up or write out a plan. They decide on the materials they need to create their project and move through the

space gathering what they need. The Maker Space materials range from materials for no-tech or to high tech electronic components such as the Little Bits, Arduino kits, and robots.

CAREER EDUCATION COURSES

Review of Systematic/Sequential Approach to Career Education

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Career Education Department continued to implement and improve the five-step approach to Career Education. This programming model consists of the following five steps:

Step 1: General Employability

Step 2: Methodology for Academic and Personal Success (MAPS) I

Step 3: Work Exploration

Step 4: MAPS II

Step 5: Work Training

- During Steps 1 and 2 (General Employability and MAPS I), students gain a better understanding and awareness of workplace concepts, “employability skills”, and their own interests and aptitudes related to future work. *Note: When their academic schedules allow, Middle School students are enrolled in the General Employability class.*
- In Step 3 (Work Exploration), students are given the opportunity to delve deeper into on campus work experiences in order to further develop their career plans and goals.
- Steps 4 and 5 (MAPS II and Work Training) are designed to support students as they evaluate their individual work experiences in order to narrow down future work options and determine a path to reach their goals. By the time they reach step five, students should have specific goals related to future work. We then identify community-based work training placements for students that are aligned with their future goals.

Work Exploration (Step 3) on campus work training sites in 2017-2018 included:

1. Wildcat Bistro (Culinary Arts)
2. Animal Care
3. Horticulture
4. Wildcat Coffee Shop
5. Wildcat Inn (Hospitality)
6. Braille Repair and cleaning
7. Assembly and Manufacturing
8. Elementary Building Front Desk
9. Main Building Front Desk
10. Elementary Developmental gym (cleaning and set up)
11. Audio production
12. Assist Home Economics Teacher



Work Training (Step 5) community based work training sites in 2017-2018 included:

1. Doubletree Hotel
2. Yarbrough Public Library
3. BookPeople
4. Hoovers (restaurant)
5. Walgreens (45th and Lamar)

6. Dart Bowl
7. Rockin' B Stables
8. Texas French Bread
9. HEB
10. Little Tesoros Therapy Services
11. Chuckwagon Cafe
12. Karla's Kuisine
13. Gethsemane Lutheran Child Development Center
14. AGE of Central Texas (Austin Groups for the Elderly)
15. Mike's Place (respite care for elderly)
16. Austin Humane Society
17. ARC of the Arts
18. Pease Elementary School
19. Umlauf Sculpture Garden
20. Cafe Monet
21. YMCA
22. Wheatsville Food Co-op
23. Tiny Pies
24. Chuck E Cheese
25. Department of Aging and Disability Services (Winters Building)
26. Parsons House (Senior Living)
27. Jos. A. Banks Men's Clothiers
28. Top Drawer Thrift Store
29. Arbor Car Wash
30. Clint Small Middle School (coffee cart)
31. Women and Their Work Gallery
32. LGC Group
33. Rudy's BBQ
34. Camp Gladiator



Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses

The following CTE courses were offered during the 2017-2018 school year:

- Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness
- Principles of Human Service
- Interpersonal Studies
- Child Development
- Principles of Hospitality
- General Employability

CAREER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Ongoing Career Education initiatives that continued during the 2017-2018 school year include:

- Links Program: This paid student work experience is a result of a collaborative effort between TSBVI and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
- Farmer's Market: Provides students (many of whom have multiple disabilities and/or DeafBlindness) with opportunities to create products for sale through activity/project based learning and structured work routines.

- Residential Work Training Program: This program provides an opportunity for students to work on campus in an area where there is need during residential hours and where the student possesses skills unique to the job.
- Dell Children’s Hospital Project: Students from a variety of instructional teams collaborated to assemble craft kits for patients at Dell Children’s Hospital. Kits include crayons and a variety of craft making supplies.
- Work routines/ activities for Elementary students and students for whom the five step continuum of courses is not appropriate: Career Education department collaborates with teachers of self- contained classes to create meaningful work routines that allow students to explore a variety of work experiences.
- Various student entrepreneurial projects: students and teachers came up with a variety of creative ideas for entrepreneurial projects. Examples include a coffee cart at a local middle school and an on campus water delivery business. Such project based learning is a fantastic way for students to experience the entrepreneurial process from start to finish.

Residential Work Training opportunities that were created for students in 2017-2018 included:

1. Braille menus (Chipotle, Mama Fu’s, Galaxy Cafe, Mandola’s, Maudie’s Tex Mex, Upper Crust Bakery)
2. Washing windows
3. Cleaning vans for Transportation Dept.
4. Residential Work Program Assistant
5. Box Tops
6. Social Skills class assistant
7. Clerical work
8. Wiping down weight room equipment
9. Cleaning pavilion
10. Extra dorm chores



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN 2017-2018

- Students participated in statewide White Cane Day activities on campus.
- A Parent Weekend conference was held with 92 students’ families in attendance.
- The School celebrated its 100th year at its current location in North Austin with a commemorative video presentation during Parent Weekend and fall play, “A Century to Celebrate,” featuring students “traveling back in time” to the year 1917.
- 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 “Enchanted Garden” at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.
- The Student Council accomplished quite a bit in the span of one school year. Each and every member of the council worked hard, helping members in our immediate school community as well as those affected by devastating hurricanes abroad. What an honor it was to be able to observe this group of young men and women grow into great civic leaders. Here are the accomplishments made by the 2017-2018 student council in chronological order:
 - Served chips and queso to kick off Red Ribbon Week (drug free initiative)
 - Student talent show
 - Staff talent show

- Staff vs. student goalball tournament with approximately 30 spectators in attendance
 - Partnership with career education students on clothing drive from February to spring break
 - Beeping Easter egg hunt with AT&T Pioneers with approximately 20 students in attendance
 - Sold refreshments at the Spring play, "A Year with Frog and Toad," raising \$507 to raise money to purchase umbrellas to provide shade to tables outside of the cafeteria
 - Ice Cream Social after the end of the year awards ceremony
- Five students, ages 12-18, participated in the Regional Braille Challenge competition on February 3, 2018. This annual event was again hosted right here at TSBVI. These hard-working students competed with other students from Region 13 in Speed & Accuracy, Proofreading, Reading Comprehension and Charts & Graphs at this national competition sponsored by the Braille Institute of America. TSBVI students won 1st and 3rd place at the Freshman Level, 2nd and 3rd place at the Junior Varsity Level and 4th place in the Varsity Division. Participating students said that they are looking forward to competing again next year!

Athletics

The 2018 South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) Wrestling, Cheerleading and Performing Arts Competition took place in Muskogee, Oklahoma. We started the fun with the Performing Arts program. Devin Gutierrez, Victoria Sanders, Wyatt Hertel, LaKendra Frances, Hector Lara and Ricky Castanada made Texas proud.

On Saturday the TSBVI Cheerleaders, Demetria Ober, Mikkah Margrave, LaKenda Frances and Dimitri Deese showed everyone how proud they are to be from Texas. They won 2nd place! Jordan Lackey won 3rd place in the mascot routine.



The Wrestlers also had a great weekend and achieved the following places for their weight classes:

- Ricky Castaneda, 1st
- Hector Lara, 1st
- Taranzo Brown, 1st
- Darbie Thompson, 2nd
- Adelyn Granger, 3rd
- Christian Gonzales, 4th
- Terynay Long, 4th



Ricky Castaneda also won Most Valuable Player for the lower weight class division.

The track and field team, composed of 12 boys and 12 girls, traveled to the 2018 SCASB Track and Field Competition in Macon, Georgia. Most of the student's place in their events. Overall the Texas boys got 2nd place and the Texas girls got 1st place! Robert Ingraham received the Most Valuable Player.

Sixty-five TSBVI students participated in the 19th 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 and track and field events.

TSBVI brought home more than 200 medals and ribbons. In the goalball tournament, two TSBVI teams competed. The TSBVI Girls' teams took third place, and the Boys' team took second Place!

The 2017 Lakeshore Goalball tournament in Birmingham, Alabama, a youth goalball tournament, hosted by the Lakeshore Foundation, a U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Site was held October 5th-8th, 2017. The Texas girls and boys went undefeated from start to finish winning the championships and the girls team was only scored on ONCE in the entire tournament!

Girls' Team:

Demetria Ober Mikkah Margrave
Olivia Hernandez Chanel Davis

Boys' Team:

Davison Perez Hector Lara
Ricky Castaneda



The weekend of November 2-4, 2017, youth goalball teams from across the country met at the School for the annual United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) Youth Goalball National Tournament. In the boy's division, the pool team topped the podium, followed by the hometown Texas Wildcats in 2nd and Florida Cobras in 3rd. In the girl's division, the Florida Cobras finished first followed by Utah Rage and Texas Wildcats, respectively

The TSBVI teams received additional honors: Two players were named to the All-American Team! Congratulations to TSBVI's All-Americans:

Demetria Ober
Davieon Perez

The Boys' and Girls' Goalball teams also competed at the USABA (Adult) Northeast Regional Goalball Tournament in April in New Jersey. This tournament is one of only a few tournaments to qualify players for eligibility in the (Adult) National Championships.

TSBVI student players competing in the tournament included:

Demetria Ober Mikkah Margrave
Olivia Hernandez Chanel Davia
Davieon Perez Hector Lara
Ricky Castaneda Abraham Cardenas

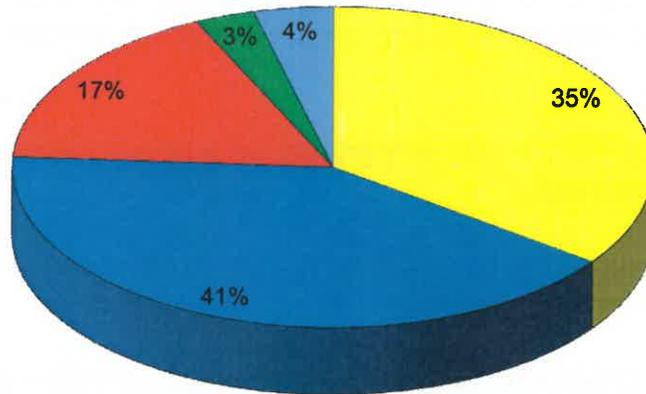
The TSBVI Boys' Team shocked their division going undefeated into the Medal Rounds and winning first place in their pool! The TSBVI Boys beat the New Jersey Thunder winning the bronze medal. TSBVI Girls played into the semifinals finishing in fourth place.

ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

In the 2017-2018 school year, 153 students representing 19 education service centers and 98 local school districts throughout Texas were enrolled in the Comprehensive Programs of TSBVI.

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Elementary Program	27	21	20	18	16
Secondary Program	129	134	147	136	129
Post Secondary Program	9	9	11	11	8
TOTAL	165	164	178	165	153

ETHNICITY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2017-18 COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS



■ Hispanic or Latino	■ White, Caucasian, or Middle Eastern	■ Black or African-American	■ Asian/Pacific Islander	■ American Indian or Alaska Native
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COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS SURVEY RESPONSES FROM PARENTS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND STUDENTS

Very pleased with the School including administration, teachers and curriculum and my son's growth. Thank you!

My daughter is extremely happy there. I have been nothing but pleased and very happy with everything about and everybody associated with and works with the school. I am very appreciative and blessed that she has the opportunity to attend school at TSBVI.

Staff at TSBVI are very friendly, kind and professional to students and their family.

I am most satisfied by all elements of TSBVI. I can't imagine what his life would be like without all the things you have provided.

From me personally I would 100 percent recommend this school. It has been the best option for my son. I am happy and satisfied. Personnel in general are very responsible with big hearts and the teachers have all of my respect. Sending my son to this wonderful school is one of the best decisions I have made.

Thank you to all the staff at TSBVI. I am very grateful for everyone at the school. Keep doing your great work because you do it well.

My child has blossomed since attending TSBVI. So proud of the many accomplishments she has mastered. These things were not available in the local school district.

My daughter is in the Exit program which is different than just attending an academic program. She has enjoyed this program very much and has developed some great friendships. Her self-confidence has also increased. Thank you for offering this to kids that have finished high school but not quite ready for a full college environment.

TSBVI is the greatest place for our children! I was the biggest skeptic ever! I did not want to send her away from our home and family. This has been the best experience for her. She has grown in personality, independence, and abilities. Communication is amazing. We know more about what she experiences in Austin than we did in our regular school. (I thought our teacher did an excellent job!) Feel free to have other skeptical parents contact me! I will gladly advocate for TSBVI! Thank you for all you do!

To me this is an excellent school. My son has changed since he has been there. Thank you for all the attention and help that you have given him, at the same token, given all the students, parents and grandparents of students.

I am pleased with the services which are being provided by my student's teacher. She is very calm and it is apparent that she is a hard worker. She has reached out to me for ideas and strategies which worked when the student was in our local school district. I truly appreciate her and everything she does for our student.

It has been a pleasure to work with the faculty at TSBVI. Each person has gone above and beyond to ensure the collaborative efforts are beneficial for our students. They are informative and helpful with questions. The services provided to our student are invaluable in preparing her for an independent and successful future. In addition, I appreciate the consideration shown towards the student's family. It is evident the faculty at TSBVI deeply cares for all parties involved and does their best to educate everyone in the best practices and care for the student.

This is a very complex student – with varying emotional, medical and academic needs. I feel the staff has done an outstanding job helping him cope with being away from home and adjusting to life living with those you go to school with. There are many, many things that I am happy he gets to participate in there but my favorite is the link to the Austin community and work world. This is something that just can't be experienced in our rural town.

I am extremely happy with not only the academic and independency level of our student but the outreach and support services through TSBVI!

Our student has made huge gains while at TSBVI. Your staff has done an amazing job!! Very impressed with my student's progress and quality of programs. Thank you!

My overall experience working with the staff at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is outstanding. I had the opportunity to visit the campus, observe my student in his classroom and in his dorm. Each individual I worked with had high expectations for my student and provided opportunities for learning and having fun while participating in each activity. I was extremely impressed with the communication system that he is using in his classroom and how he is communicating with the staff and peers.

Our student continues to receive a high quality educational program that is specialized to his needs and supported by well trained, pleasant staff. We are very glad that our student has access to this high quality program.

We continue to appreciate the opportunity for our student to receive such quality and accessible instruction. The level of acceleration is clearly visible and setting her up for success in achieving her personal and educational goals!

We were very satisfied by what we observed during her rides from the bus stop to her home. She seemed to have gained so much confidence and enjoyed the experiences from living in a city. From the districts standpoint, we feel like TSBVI did an excellent job of communicating with us and partnering with us in her education.

We are so thankful for the services TSBVI has provided for our student. You have given him opportunities, activities and an education that our district could not have done. Thank you!

Our student has progressed in all areas while attending TSBVI. His knowledge of tactual symbols and the calendar system has greatly aided in his communication skills. These skills along with his use of tactual sign language has assisted him in being able to communicate with various family members and staff.

We are strongly convinced that this was the best place for her to learn her acceptance of her vision diagnosis and to acquire the skills she would need to be a successful and independent young lady. We are proud of all she has accomplished there and that she continues to have aspirations of college and vocational career. She is certainly more social than she was in high school. She participates more in her own ARDs now than she ever did in her high school years. She has many friends and she takes leadership more now among her friends. Watching her navigate with her white cane around her community t here at TSB, her day care setting, and in stores and restaurants is amazing. She has gained such confidence. Thank you for treating her with such remarkable respect and teaching her braille skills, and technology skills. I think she knows more than I do now. We are so impressed with her and we know she will go far in her life. I am excited to be able to watch her gain more independent skills and more knowledge towards college life.

Very proud of my student and her progress at TSBVI. This was my first time to have student transition through the EXIT program. Enjoyed working collaboratively with staff there.

I am thoroughly impressed with the progress she has made while there. I am thankful that she has this opportunity as we would have never been able to accomplish such great things at our facility. She would also not have the opportunities for vocational/community training as we are a very rural area and have limited resources. It is truly AMAZING how far she has come since being at TSBVI.

I value the services and supports that TSBVI provides to the students from our district. The student's parent also communicated to me how much she appreciates the programming TSBVI provides her daughter. All interactions including participating in ARD meets, with TSBVI staff have been courteous and professional. I appreciate all you do.

The range of options in terms of educational, vocational, independent living, access to community and adaptive behavior training are outstanding. The student and her parents and the school district are very pleased with the education provided. The opportunity to live on campus and have additional time and training in independent living skills and adaptive behavior have been of great benefit to her. Thank you.

Our student has done extremely well at TSBVI. Our school district as well as his grandparents have been very pleased with his progress.

TSBVI has been awesome for my student. The things she does now has been great because she practices them in school and after. This has been the best thing for her.

She progressed and grew because of the assistance and schooling TSBVI provided her. It was such a blessing to work with such a wonderful program. I feel our special ED team learned so many valuable things from our partnership with TSBVI. Thank you for embracing and serving our students!

TSBVI does a wonderful job working with students to promote independence. It is so nice to have a facility like this that is completely dedicated and focused around educating students who are visually impaired. Thank you.

SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

Short-Term Programs offers group and individualized classes for Texas students with visual impairments. Students travel to Austin and participate in classes and activities with peers from across the state. We offer both school year short-term programs and summer programs. Each program has a distinct charge and targets instruction to a variety of student populations with visual impairments.

SCHOOL YEAR SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

During the traditional school year, Short-Term Programs (STP) provides classes for students who are academically on or near grade-level but need to learn special adaptive skills to access the core curriculum and participate fully in their school's learning and social environment. Between late August and May, STP offers intensive in-person classes, from three to five days in length, as well as remote distance learning instruction which varies in length.

In addition to working on the academic objectives for which their districts refer, students receive instruction in other aspects of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for Students with Visual Impairments. This instruction includes 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 and learn breakfast preparation skills before attending class. Their day ends at bedtime after a full evening of activities addressing domestic and personal care needs, food preparation, community access, homework, self-knowledge, and self-advocacy. Students often develop friendships and maintain contact with peers they meet in short-term programs classes.



STP COURSE SCHEDULE 2017-18

Date	Class	Type
Ongoing	Individualized Instruction	Individualized Instruction
Ongoing	Accessibility: What and Why? Orion TI-84+ Talking Graphing Calculator Part 1, 2, 3 Google Classroom and VoiceOver Google Classroom and JAWS iOS Accessibility Features for the Visually Impaired JAWS Part 1 Basic Concepts Summer Book Club	Distance Learning
Aug 27- Sept 1	Junior Access to Academic Skills #1 (grades 6-8)	Access to Academic Skills
Sept 10-13	Elementary Technology & Math Series Part A Tech Tools (grades 2-5) Math Masters (grades 2-5) Literacy STAARs (grades 2-5)	Access to Academic Skills
Sept 15-17	Troubles to Triumphs (grades 6-8)	Expanded Core Curriculum
Sept 24-29	High School Access to Academic Skills #1 (9-12) Math or Technology, or Low Vision Tools Special Focus: Preparing for College	Access to Academic Skills
Oct 5-8	Tactile Graphics Discovery Quest (grades 5-7)	Expanded Core Curriculum
Oct 15-18	Elementary Technology, Math Series Part B	Access to Academic Skills
Oct 19-22	Elementary Weekend #1: Pioneer Times	Independence Weekends
Oct 29-Nov 3	Assistive Tools-Technology for Access to Math (8-12)	Access to Academic Skills
Nov 5-7	Super Science! (grades 6-8)	Expanded Core Curriculum
Nov 12-15	Elementary Technology & Math Series Part C	Access to Academic Skills
Nov 26-28	Junior Independence #1 Iron Chef (grades 6-8)	Independence Weekends

Nov 30-Dec 3	Game of Life (grades 7-9)	Independence Weekends
Dec 7-10	High School Weekend #1 Outdoor Challenge (8-12)	Independence Weekends
Jan 7-12	Elementary Access to Academic Skills (grades 3-5)	Access to Academic Skills
Jan 18-21	Screen Reader Bootcamp Joint Student/Teacher (4-6)	Expanded Core Curriculum
Jan 28-31	Health and Well-Being: Intro to Sexuality (grades 5-7)	Expanded Core Curriculum
Feb 4-9	High School Access to Academic Skills #2 (gr. 9-12)	Access to Academic Skills
Feb 19-23	Empowered: Bring It On! (grades 11-12)	Independence Weekends
March 2-4	Wellness Weekend (grades 9-12)	Independence Weekends
March 7-10	High School #1: Outdoor Challenge (grades 8-12)	Independence Weekends
March 22-25	City Travel for COMS and Their Students (grades 7-12)	Expanded Core Curriculum
Apr 6-8	In the Driver's Seat: Intro to Safe Driving Low Vision (9-12)	Expanded Core Curriculum
Apr 20-22	Pre-SWEAT (for students in summer SWEAT program)	Expanded Core Curriculum
April 26-29	Elementary Weekend #2: Outdoor Adventures (4-5)	Independence Weekends
May 3-6	High School Independence Weekend #2: Prom (10-12)	Independence Weekends
May 17-20	Junior Independence Weekend: Iron Chef 2 (6-8)	Independence Weekends

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-2018 SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

- STP offered 25 in-person classes from late August through May.
- TSTP created two new classes called Troubles to Triumphs and Wellness Weekend.
- STP served a total of 311 students from across the state.
- Students from all 20 educational regions attended STP.
- 94% of students demonstrated progress on their targeted goals while attending an on-campus academic class.
- 100% of responding school districts, parents and students rated their experience in short-term programs as very satisfactory or outstanding.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS 2017-2018

- STP staff presented at TAER, Mentor Center, Access U at St. Edwards University, Noah, and Texas Tech University Assistive Tech Weekend (BrailleNote, iOS devices & Zoomtext).
- STP held a departmental book study with residential staff on No Drama Discipline.
- Helped organize and lead the TSBVI technology training day.
- STP led the TSBVI social media committee.
- Again, this year, the capability of the Short-Term Programs' web application resulted in improved accessibility for TVIs and parents across the state, as well as staff on campus. STP continues to receive positive feedback from parents and TVIs about the ease of use of these new online tools.

ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

During the 2017-2018 Short-Term Program school year, 311 students were served, representing all 20 of the Education Service Center regions and 95 local school districts.

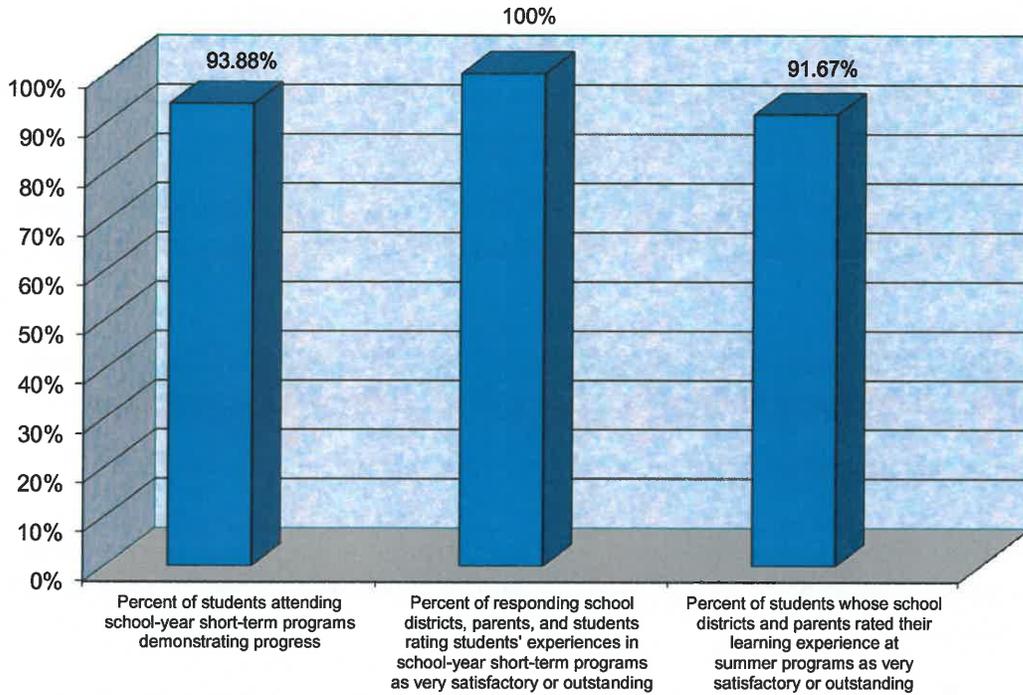
YEAR	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
STUDENTS	212	218	206	223	268	311



PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES FOR 2017-2018

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

SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR 2017-2018



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

The TSBVI staff member was very helpful and followed through on everything she said she would do. She is great!

He loved the whole program and learned a lot. He wants to come back.

Most beneficial was learning about the parts of the eye and going out and learning how to be independent. Also, using devices and seeing how they benefit him.

Thank you for the opportunity for my sons to visit TSBVI. They enjoyed being around other kids with similar vision problems. They had fun doing the activities and staying in the dorm for the weekend.

Dorms were clean, comfortable and perfect for the weekend workshop. Everyone was friendly and helpful. Thank you for your feedback on our child! We will use it to move forward.

Everyone was very welcoming.

This is my daughter's 2nd time at this camp; she appeared to engage even more socially than she has in the past. Glad to see the staff really helped support her getting into her comfort zone and interacting socially.

Activities that were most beneficial were social engagement, being a leader for the students who had not been camping before. These are both empowering for my daughter and help with her self-awareness and confidence.

The dorms are always clean, wonderfully organized, the staff is welcoming and helps her settle right in.

Everyone is friendly, welcoming and positive. Loved the overview and the attention to personal detail in the report I received about my child.

TSBVI's programs are wonderful, I wish there were more weekend programs available throughout the year.

Staff are knowledgeable, extremely courteous, genuinely concerned. The nurses are extremely helpful! The staff tremendous!

We have worked for the past 5 years with your individualized instructional program and are very pleased with the results. Every year presents a new challenge in technology, which the Short-Term Program teacher has handled with complete competence. We are hoping this service will continue for the next school year.

My student returned very happy and excited about her experience.

TSBVI's website is almost a daily resource for me as a TVI/O&M.

TSBVI is like a utopia! I love coming to the campus and seeing the amazing setup all over the campus!

This was such an amazing learning experience for my student.

Access to public transportation was amazing since we do not have public transportation in our town. Student feels much more confident in her abilities to access public transportation now.

This student came back beaming and eager to share her experience with her peers and teachers. She has been more apt to volunteer in her classroom and has carried other skills forward to her daily life.

Experiences similar to what was offered in this program are greatly beneficial as similar experiences are not as widely available to my student where she lives.

Her TSBVI teacher has been a godsend to my student and I. She is so willing to help.

This is the best series and has been phenomenal for us. We will be attending next year as well.

I am thankful that my students have the opportunity to participate in short term programs at TSBVI. I think that the experiences they gain while there are extremely valuable.

My student came back eager to tell me all about his experience and his new friends.

He benefited from the goal setting opportunities and the friendship activities. TSBVI staff has been great at communicating with me regarding my students' progress at the campus.

The staff is very helpful and professional and responds to phone calls or emails very quickly.

He told me how much he enjoyed his weekend, and your report on his positive experience confirms it.

All the experiences were beneficial. Everywhere he was able to practice independence, have his confidence boosted, and socialize with other students with visual impairments.

TSBVI staff are always at the forefront of best practices in the field. The student report was very clear and thorough. I almost felt like I had participated in the weekend too.

This student returned happy with nonstop talking about her experience. All the experiences help to show students with a visual impairment can do whatever the mind wishes to.

Dorms were clean, safe, with caring staff that worked hard to make the experience fun while practicing and learning new skills. I appreciate the way they worked with me and how comfortable they made me and my student feel.

I especially liked having the opportunity to come learn new things and share experiences with other students like me. I really enjoyed one staff member's advice. It was relatable.

You are never bored in the dorm. Everyone is really nice and helpful.

The dorm was a really big comfortable space. It wasn't constricting. The staff were really nice.

I think the most valuable information to me was the visit to UT. I was already considering applying and seeing the dorms and touring the campus was really helpful.

It gave me a chance to really advocate for myself and see what it will be like in life making choices. Two of the staff are really involved with the students and want us to be prepared. I feel that the whole program dorm and school day were really safe and no one was condescending. Brought a sense of urgency for me to start thinking about my future.

I learned a lot about scholarships and financial aid, touring the campus, advice from other visually impaired students. It gave me a lot of info on how to be prepared.

The staff are very nice to you. It was incredible. It was a nice experience that I have never had before. I met some new people. I laughed with them, I cried with them. The whole drama.

I learned more about myself and what I'm going to go through.

I had Zoomtext for a couple of months and I didn't know anything about until I came here. I learned a lot of Zoomtext keys.

It's a very positive and supportive atmosphere. Staff is great to talk to about life in general. Independent living skills training in the dorm is exceptional. They let me do more advanced things as I got older and better at things over the years.

The topic is so relevant, self-advocacy is very important. Blindness is under-represented in self-advocacy community.

It's empowering, it's confidence boosting. I've gotten closer to my peers! Keep being spectacular!

I learned a lot about myself and others. The pretest made me think about my strengths instead of my challenges. I have trouble with my self-esteem. It was fun and I learned new techniques for stress management. The staff were very nice and always checking if I was ok. I had fun with the students and I'm not usually very social with people but here I feel better. I like that we got to think more positively about ourselves.

SUMMER SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

Summer programs serve students from across the state in enrichment classes which emphasize skills from the ECC that may be challenging for districts to teach during the school year. Texas students who do not attend TSBVI comprehensive programs during the regular school year are eligible for summer programs. We give priority consideration to students who have never attended to increase opportunities for students from across the state to experience summer programs. Students attend one of six different summer programs described below.

1. **Secondary Enrichment (SE)** provides opportunities for middle and high-school aged students to practice academic and vision-related skills in enrichment activities in unique themed classes of eight to twelve students. Students in this program generally take the STAAR assessment. Each summer we modify our original offerings based on student requests. SE is the largest summer program we offer, and we serve students in one-, two-, or three-week classes.
2. **Elementary Summer Enrichment (ESE)** provides opportunities for students to practice academic and vision-related skills in enrichment activities in theme-based classes of eight students. Students in this program generally take the STAAR assessment. Each summer we modify our original offerings based on requests. We serve students in one- or two-week classes.
3. **Practical Experiences in Expanded Core (PEEC)** provides opportunities for both elementary and secondary aged students to practice ECC and vision-specific skills in a structured classroom engaged in community-based instruction. Students are usually enrolled in self-contained classrooms in their local districts and generally take the STAAR Alternate assessment. Each PEEC class serves four to five students.
4. **Learning Independence and Vocational Skills for Deafblind (LIVDB)** provides opportunities for high-school aged students to practice ECC and vision-specific skills in an entrepreneurial vocational class specifically designed to meet the needs of students with deafblindness who are pursuing vocational paths. LIVDB is a two-week class.
5. **Summer Work Experience in Austin Texas (SWEAT)** provides high-school aged students paid jobs in the Austin community. Students receive intensive training in all aspects of work including traveling independently to and from work. Students also learn independent living skills to help them determine what their strengths and needs are as they prepare to leave traditional high school settings.
6. **Working and Living in the Community (WALIC)** provides high-school aged students shared vocational opportunities in the Austin community. Students are usually enrolled in self-contained classrooms in their local districts and generally take the STAAR Alternate assessment. Students receive a small training stipend and practice ECC skills in small groups at a modified pace of instruction.

By creating opportunities to interact with other visually impaired students and adults, we aim to enhance student's self-knowledge and well-being, as well as their self-confidence and self-advocacy. Students who attend summer programs are often the only visually impaired student in their school. We provide empowering experiences and positive role models of adults living independently with visual impairments. By bringing similar students from across the state together, we create 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 AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018 SUMMER PROGRAMS

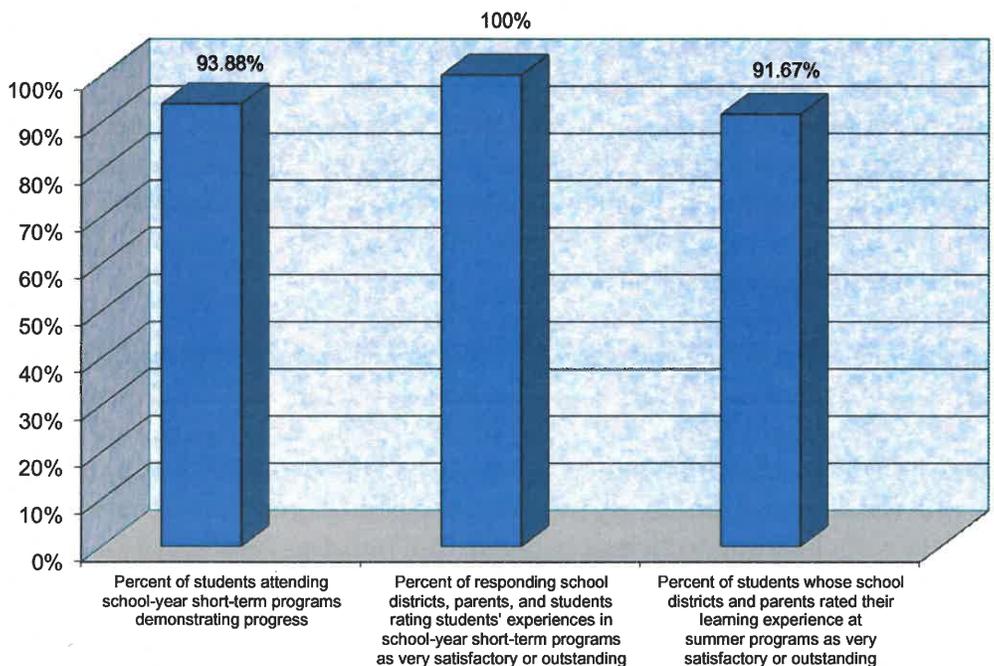
- 92% of responding school districts, parents and students rated their experience in the summer programs as very satisfactory or above (2017 programs – 2018 results not yet available).
- 131 students attended SE in the following classes: Aspiring Authors, A Capella, Camp Challenge, Computer Designed Embroidery, Creative Dance Workshop, Getting There, Maker Challenge, Middle School Enrichment, On My Own, Rock Band, Small Animal Care, Summer Actor’s Workshop, Taste of Independence, and Wildcat Bistro & Catering
- 8 students received their official high PE credit in an intensive three-week class.
- 69 students attended PEEC
- 3 students attended LIVDB
- 13 students attended SWEAT and worked in the following individual businesses: Austin Humane Society, Café Monet, Dragon’s Lair Comics and Fantasy, DoubleTree Hotel, Gethsemane Lutheran, Karla’s Kuisine, Ten Thousand Villages, Umlauf Sculpture Garden, Vaqueros, Walgreens, Westin Hotel, Wheatsville, YMCA.
- 14 students attended WALIC and volunteered/worked at the following businesses: Austin Retirement and Nursing Center, Central Texas Foodbank, Goodwill Industries, Health and Human Services, Mike’s Place, Top Drawer Thrift Shop, Wheatsville Food Coop.

ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

In the 2018 Summer Programs, 315 students were served, representing 19 of the 20 Education Service Center regions and 139 local school districts throughout Texas. In 2018 we received 488 applications and between March and July, offered 410 of those students a class.

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
STUDENTS	328	314	318	321	345	315

SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR 2017-2018



SUMMER PROGRAM SURVEY RESPONSES FROM PARENTS AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

I look forward to the TSBVI opportunities every summer. Thank you for rewarding supplementary immersion experiences.

The staff was very kind and professional and was very good about contacting me regarding emergencies or concerns.

The reports are always extremely detailed and thorough to share it with his school and caseworkers for future planning and goal orientation.

Your summer programs are excellent for our children. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

I liked so much your staff, excellent people.

The caregivers were excellent. She had a wonderful time!

My daughter is always excited to go to your school. You guys have the patience she requires and can explain things in a way that she can understand. The difference shows.

She loves being around people/friends like her and staff that understand her challenges and care. Thank you!

This was a great opportunity for my daughter to learn and implement the skills needed to be able to live a productive and fulfilling period and make the connection once she returned home.

TSBVI staff were very kind and caring. Willing to take calls from a nervous wreck of a momma who had never been separated from her daughter.

A wonderful opportunity that has started my daughter on a more independent path where her vision is no longer the large challenge it was. An amazing experience that has given my daughter confidence and more independence.

The final report given to me will not only help me work with my daughter to prepare her for independence, but I also shared with her ARD committee and Texas Workforce Solutions case manager to help plan appropriately for her challenges. It was hugely helpful!

Upon the completion of the course, I really enjoyed the conversation with his teacher. She was GREAT! Very positive; informative; and provided very clear instructions as far as how everything went.

This Summer Camp certainly taught my son some skills; very admittedly that I embarrassingly just did not either take the time to realize, or learn through daily observation. He experienced some things, such as dishwashing, and cooking meals that he had never experienced at home. We thank you! You guys are running a terrific program!

My daughter loves the staff at TSBVI - both dorm staff and teachers. They all genuinely greet her with care and enthusiasm and she enjoys seeing peers from prior years. I have full trust that they will take good care of her.

The communication was great...I was very impressed. Always a great place for my son. It feels like another home to him.

Great people all around. They always know the answers; they're very competent with the students and their activities.

Thank you for this program. My son was so proud of all his accomplishments. I'm so proud of him.

Love the variety of experiences and opportunities.

These experiences have been a highlight of this student's summer and she talks about her experiences each year with school staff for months after.

Very detailed comments in the progress report which gave me a good understanding of what activities my student did and her level of understanding and participation level. Nice mix of experiences.

The smile on my student's face in the pictures and the comments that were directed at her experiences, confirm that this was an awesome choice for her.

Awesome! TSBVI classes have helped my student's confidence 100% +.

I appreciate all that you do! It is important that VI students have a chance to socialize with other VI students, and TSBVI has given this to our student. I serve charter schools, and there is usually one VI student on the entire campus. She has been the only VI student on her campus since kindergarten (now going into the 7th grade). Thank you a thousand times!



OUTREACH PROGRAMS

TSBVI Outreach Programs provide statewide training and information for children with visual impairments and DeafBlindness, their families, the educational team members who teach them, and to related organizations. Outreach support is available for students of all ages from birth through transition from school. Our focus is on supporting students in their homes all across Texas. We bring most of our services directly to local communities and programs.

Texans can request the programs they need to support family members and professionals involved with students with visual impairments or DeafBlindness. The Outreach Programs typically work in collaboration with regional services. Partnering with local, state and national agencies and organizations, together we can build and support quality local programs for students with visual impairments and DeafBlindness.

Most assistance from the Outreach Program is available at little or no charge. Services include:

- 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
- Distance learning options via web-based live and archived webinars
- A newsletter produced with Health and Human Services Commission Blind Children's Program and TX Workforce Solutions offered online and in paper, in Spanish and English
- Resources on visual impairments and DeafBlindness posted online
- Materials from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) distributed and ordered from the TSBVI Outreach Programs website
- Assistive technology available on loan
- The Annual Registration of Students with Visual Impairments and the Texas DeafBlind Child Count conducted for the Texas Education Agency

TSBVI Outreach Programs effectively support and complement 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 and/or DeafBlind Specialist. Those professionals refer to the TSBVI Outreach Programs as needed and we work together for optimal follow up and implementation. This provides for a strong statewide system to support quality educational programs for students across Texas.

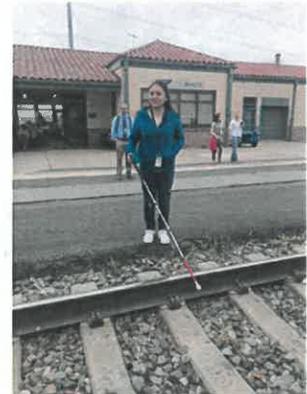
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2017-18 FISCAL YEAR

- 90.35% 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 2017-2018 the Outreach staff made 145 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.
- Outreach Programs supported students in their local districts and programs in every ESC region of the state. Consultations may involve multiple visits to a program and can include both in-person and distance connections.
- TSBVI Outreach presented or facilitated 241 conferences and/or workshop sessions at local districts, at regional service centers, and at statewide and national venues, including via distance technologies, for 6591 participants, which was over 500 more than the 2016-17 school year. Requests for workshops and training come from around the state and nation.
- TSBVI DeafBlind Project staff began another Teacher of Students with DeafBlindness Pilot program in the North Texas area. An evaluation component is being built into the process to track student, teacher, and systems change, which informs efficacy of the program. The Texas DeafBlind Project members are working with the State Board of Educator Certification to explore the development of a recognized credential for the role of a Teacher of Students with DeafBlindness.
- A clinic for learning how to evaluate cortical visual impairment in young children was held in Austin at Educational Service Center 13 and also at Educational Service Center 1 in Edinburgh and in Laredo. This model helps train teachers and family members how to recognize and adapt for this complex visual condition to help ensure optimum visual development during the critical early years.
- Web-based Accomplishments:
 - The use of distance training tools supports access to quality training for people who might otherwise not be able to attend, resulting in wider dissemination of training materials. This past year 27 of those presentations were offered via webinar. 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.
 - Outreach continued to provide web-based study groups on topics including cortical visual impairment and active learning strategies. Virtual sessions allow professionals in their local communities to connect for scheduled topical discussions and provides access to expert assistance and a peer group for discussion without the costs of time and travel.
 - The TSBVI Online Learning website, <https://www.tsbvi.edu/online-learning>, provides an organized venue for accessing anytime, anywhere training on VI and DB issues. During 2017-18, 90 videos were posted from Outreach with over 43 hours of content viewed almost 8,000 times.
- Face to face presentations can provide more in-depth information as well as the opportunity to network with others with like interests and skills. There were several statewide conferences sponsored by TSBVI Outreach, including: the Texas Focus Conference, Introduction to the Intervener Team Model, Braille “Boot Camp”, SouthWest Orientation and Mobility Association conference, Active Learning, a Low Vision Conference about students with progressive vision loss, three Mentor Centers and a statewide Mentor Training. In addition, TSBVI Outreach staff presented at many related statewide conferences such as the Texas Association for the Education and

Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (TAER) , the International AERBVI Conference in Reno, and more.

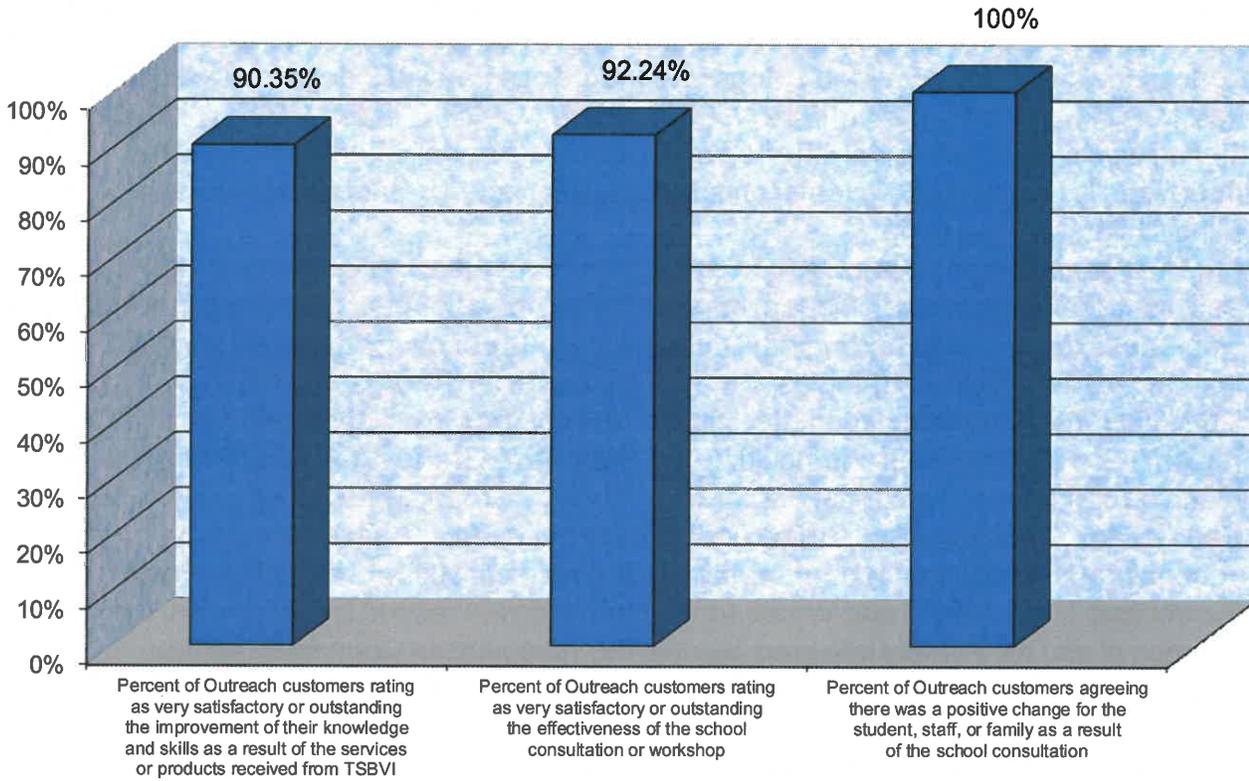
- TSBVI is an active partner in professional development of new teachers of students with visual impairments and certified orientation and mobility specialists. With the support of the TSBVI's state and federal funds and the TSBVI VI mentor program, 55 new VI professionals were employed in Texas.
- TX universities enrolled 84 new students into professional development coursework, thus ensuring a supply of appropriately trained professionals for students.
- Families have a long-term impact on the outcome of their children with disabilities' educational programs. Outreach programs offered five Family Engagement Series sessions in Fort Worth partnering with Educational Service Centers in Region 10 and 11 and also with HHSC/ Blind Children's Program. Additionally, Outreach provided three Family Leadership Systems trainings in Austin, again in partnership with the Blind Children's Program.
- Family organizations thrive in TX in part due to the support of the Outreach Programs. This past year, organization leaders began meeting together on a quarterly basis in a web-based format. This has increased their knowledge of each other, and shared learning about effective strategies to grow a statewide family organization.
- TSBVI Outreach members promote, expect, and appreciate collaboration with regional and statewide entities including the West Texas Cluster, the Deaf Plus planning committee, Personnel Preparation Advisory Group, State Leadership Services for Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired, 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.
- In the 2017-18 year, Outreach again provided a variety of presentations relevant to current trends in our field and the needs of students with sensory impairments. Topics included braille and tactile graphics, high tech orientation and mobility, cortical visual impairment including phase III strategies, low vision devices and techniques, intervener training, calendars and routines, math teaching strategies for students with visual impairments, self-determination skills, and more.
- Outreach recognizes the value of providing instructional opportunities for professionals to acquire ACVREP or SBEC continuing education units. During 2017-18, TSBVI Outreach Programs offered and supported a total of 284.50 hours of qualifying credits.



PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES FOR 2017-2018 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 MEASURES FOR 2017-2018



OUTREACH PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS FROM PARENTS AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

School Consultations

Learned ways to use technology we have and learned what would be most applicable. The Outreach consultants are a great team. Very approachable.

Great! Can't wait to get started. Thank you so much. I learned so much!

I greatly appreciate the Outreach consultant for seeing our student for the person he is and not a case number. Her personal attention and wisdom is helping him develop his unlimited potential.

Excellent job. I really enjoyed this and learned a lot.

Do I feel that my team has more clarity about how to support this student as a result of this consultation? Extremely so. Thank you. Thank you.

The support and recommendations from TSBVI staff was great!

Would love to expand this visit to a whole district wide training.

Information provided was clear and specific to the needs of this student. Consultants provided real world/real time activities, ideas and recommendations.

Presenters were very informative. These are strategies that our teachers/parents may implement for the success of this student.

I appreciated the input of the Outreach consultant. In a short period of time, he was able to provide us with information that can hopefully allow us to make better choices for our student.

I learned so much from this visit. The staff was approachable and helpful. Thank you for the new direction!

The consultants were amazing! So many great ideas to help us with programming for our student. Great collaboration!

Information and resources will be used to assist in transition for this student. Support through previous contacts through this visit has been outstanding!

I am so glad we got TSBVI and culinary to come out to see our student and help with our program. Our culinary staff and program school feels so much more confident and willing to work and try the suggestions. My student would not have been as successful this year without TSBVI. Thank you!!

The support from TSBVI staff was so helpful. I feel the team feels a lot more confident with having this student in the culinary class.

The consultants were great and gave wonderful ideas!

Wonderful presentation, very organized and impactful.

I have never been to an inservice like this one! I've learned so much! It was great!

Thank you for sharing your knowledge. It was an amazing training. Very engaging and uplifting.

Great information and new ways to work with our VI students.

Wonderful presentations and activities! Spot on!!

I am now able to take a lot of theory and put it into practice. The staff are highly knowledgeable about the content and able to communicate it to others. Really enjoyed having them in the region.

Great input on ways to work with our student and how we can be on the same page as everyone. Good ideas.

It was a pleasure to have the consultants on our campus. I found them very insightful and helpful.

Outreach Conferences, Workshops and Webinars

I enjoyed your presentation very much. I left leaving with a plan in place, and can't wait to implement it.

I definitely want to return next year and attend the conference, and bring more of my educational team with me! Thank you so much for everything you do for these wonderful kids! And the videos really were very helpful too.

This two day conference was beyond amazing. The concepts shared were wonderfully summarized and easy to understand and implement. I so appreciate seeing how to work with the kids and the videos helped immensely to show what not to do and what to do. I love that this method is play with learning and how it opens up the door to more meaningful communication and interaction. Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge with us. I would have loved a five day conference, but know that is hard to ask for! You were a pleasure to listen to and I appreciate all that was taught to us.

This was one of the most interesting and beneficial presentations I have ever attended.

I enjoyed this event. This conference was well organized and the staff was wonderful - friendly and helpful. I truly learned a great deal.

I was so impressed with this conference. It was one of the best I have ever been too. I loved the way the general sessions around brain science took advantage of the expertise of an actual neuroscientist (!) and combined it with the amazing deafblind expertise of the panel. It was a brilliant combination.

It was an amazing conference. All aspects of it were well done and the amount of knowledge and experience shared was amazing.

The guest speakers were all very interesting, informed, and presented their knowledge and experiences very clearly and in an engaging way. I found it remarkable that all of the main presentations connected so well to each other. I came away from the conference with so many ideas and new areas to investigate.

This is one of the best conferences I attend. It is consistently timely, informative, and the information is well researched and well presented. Thank you for bringing such quality together for parents and professionals alike.

This is the best conference I have ever been to. The presenters were superior, intelligent, easy to listen to, practical. I have much to share with other team members after this amazing conference.

This was one of the best conferences I've attended in many years. Information was relevant and interesting and the speakers were very enthusiastic which translated well to the audience. Many thanks for a job VERY well done.

This was, by far, the most energizing and encouraging symposium yet! Every speaker had me hanging on every word, thinking of each student on my caseload, and trying to figure out what I was going to do to implement the strategies discussed. The speakers were PHENOMENAL and so engaging!

This panel was able to combine the research done on the development of the brain and relate it to the experience and the research done in the deafblind world and make the strategies and implementation of teaching a deafblind student completely valid. This was great!

I as an COTA have not been to a conference where I left with a list of students I wanted to try this with and exactly what I was going to do in a very long time. I was engaged, encouraged, motivated and very enthusiastic to get this started in the fall. My entire team that was there spent the 3 hr drive home talking about things we need to get ready and prepared over the summer. It was WONDERFUL. Thank you for a great presentation!

I would just like to express my gratitude to the presenters and all who were involved with this process/event. I am a parent, and I do not usually have access to such opportunities as this. But this was such a blessing to me (and my family), and I now have an incredible gift of knowledge to bring home and implement for my son. I am very thankful, and I am looking forward to many more conferences to attend in the future!!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. I would like for this program to be required training for all school employees in Texas; Regardless of their job description, everyone knows a special needs child.

This conference was incredible! I'm so glad that we have access to all of this important knowledge through the conference and through the tsbvi website! What an invaluable service!

I can't say enough about this presentation. It gave me a lot of food for thought and is so integral to any and all of our relationships with others! I can't wait to share and use what I learned!! THANK YOU!!!

I love attending Texas Focus conference. I always gain new information, love the format, and appreciate the hard work TSBVI and their staff put it to having a high quality conference which includes a range of topics.

Amazing conference! Really impressed with the incorporation of movement and it's impact on ALL areas of development.

Great presenters and sessions with pertinent info and ideas to implement immediately!

This was the best conference I've ever been to and I have been an O&M specialist since 1994. Great job, as always, Kate, Cyral and everyone who made this possible. You are the best.

It was an eye opening to a new world of knowledge; instilled in me the desire to learn and do more for blind children.

This was the most helpful for me. I came away with so many ideas to work with a particular student I couldn't wait to try them.

Awesome conference utilizing today's technology in such an amazing way. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the 2-day symposium. I will definitely take part in future conferences done in this way!

Bravo! Thanks for providing an O&M focused conference!! I enjoyed the international aspect of the presentations and loved the online access as it would otherwise be difficult to get approved for out of state /country travel. Please bring this back next year. You all did an amazing job, thank you so much!

I really liked attending the conference in a virtual space. It was great that I was able to watch the sessions I missed in real time on youtube at a later time. Thank you!

I think this conference was very well planned and executed. It took a huge amount of work to pull this off and I truly appreciate all the efforts. It was well worth it! Thank you! Great to be able to connect to all over the world from our own individual locations. I would definitely register for this type of conference/symposium again.

This was one of the best Professional Development opportunities for O & M I have experienced. The international online format was so beneficial; please continue this opportunity in the future!

As a parent of a child with albinism, I found the mix of attendees, the presenters and the opportunity to here from professionals at the exhibits enlightening. It was also very helpful to have the parents breakout.

I found this workshop enlightening. Great information, research based and most presenters lived the experience which made it real.

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 world wide 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; recreation and leisure, self-determination, sensory efficiency skills, and social interaction skills. Each guide contains evaluation tools and instructional methodology.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-2018

- A total of 3,105 publications were sold in this fiscal year, equaling a total dollar amount of \$125, 712.
- *TAPS Orientation and Mobility Curriculum, 3rd Edition*, was at the top of our best-seller list. We sold 207 of the curriculum set, 262 of the Evaluation booklet, and 92 flash drives, making a total of 561.
- *Nemeth At A Glance: A Math Resource, Grade-Level Chart and Evaluation Tool* was second on the list with 362 sold.
- *Calendars for Students with Multiple Impairments* was third at 335 copies sold.
- Also sold during the school year were: 135 Independent Living Evaluation booklets, 135 copies of the *Learning Media Assessment* publication, 116 copies of *Yoga for Children with Visual and Multiple Impairments*, and 110 copies of the *Expanded Core Curriculum Resources for Evaluation and Instruction* publication.
- Two publications have been completed and are in production on our campus: *Essential Tools of the Trade: A How-To Guide for Completing FVE, LMA and ECC evaluations; Texas 2 STEPS, An Early Intervention O&M Curriculum*.
- We are continuing to teach Innovative Courses: General Employability, Methodologies or Academic and Personal Success (MAPS), Braille, O&M, and Assistive Technology.
- The Curriculum department provides support to classroom teachers in daily instruction, including the development of IEPs and use of appropriate curriculum.
- Curriculum is being adapted for students receiving modified instruction in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. AGS curriculum products from Pearson, Study Island and The Unique Learning System program are being used as the basis for some of these courses.
- Development continues on the following publications:
 - Update of the Braille FUNdamentals curriculum from EBAE to UEB
 - Update of *Making Evaluation Meaningful*
 - FVE/LMA Guidebook, *Essential Tools of the Trade 2*, for students with DeafBlindness
 - *EXIT Curriculum* designed for students who have received credits for graduation and are working on skills needed for adult life
 - Revision of the Finding Wheels publication, formerly produced by Pro-Ed Publishers
 - Nemeth training modules that correspond with the *Nemeth At a Glance* publication

- The curriculum department provides training, in Texas as well as out of state, on the use of 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.
- The Curriculum Department continues to create the TSBVI yearbook, by taking and compiling photos from events that occur during the school year.

TSBVI's WEB SITE: www.tsbvi.edu

As the demand for readily available, online resources continues to grow, TSBVI has worked hard to improve the stability of the website framework and reduce page loading times, archive outdated content, train campus editors, define guidelines, and build a new, more modern and robust website framework.

Several sites will be updated in 2019 including:

- TSBVI.EDU – Our primary website is being redesigned.
- TSBVI Online Store – Our online store is being redesigned.
- ActiveLearningSpace.org – This collaborative site has been launched and is being updated.
- TSBVI History – This site has been launched and is being updated.
- TexasVITransition.org – This site has been launched and is being updated.

We will be expanded the reach of our content by changing the format and adding RSS syndication to our newsletter, TX SenseAbilities, and creating podcasts.

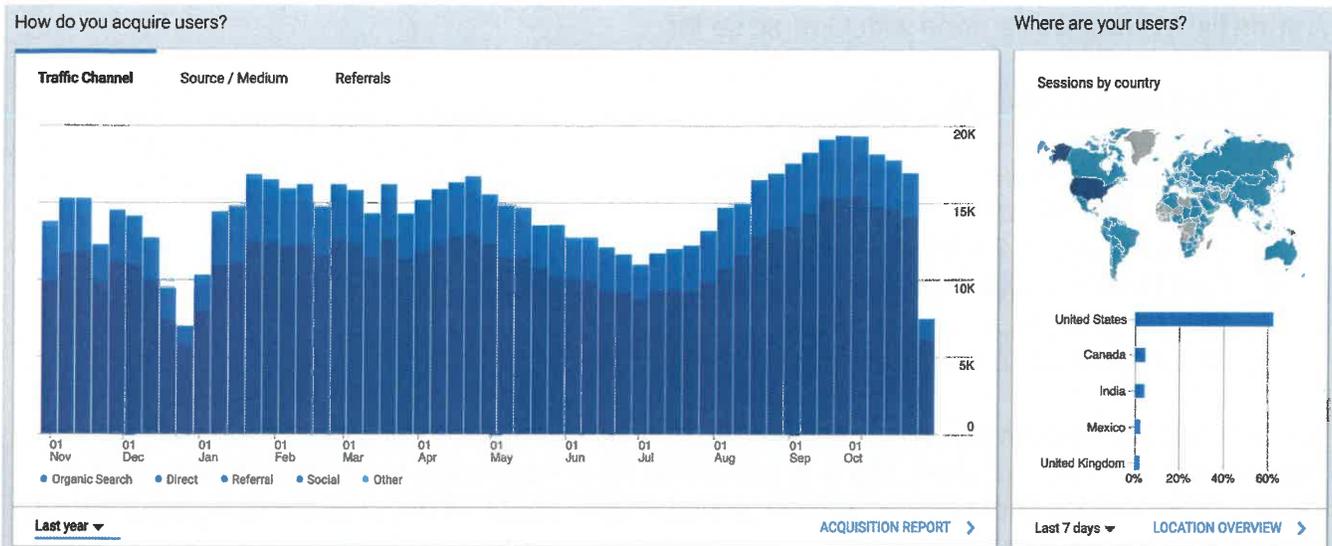
In addition to the ongoing improvements to TSBVI-maintained websites, our web team also had the privilege of developing an online application to accompany the braille classical guitar curriculum (Let's Play!) developed by TSBVI staff in cooperation with Austin Classical Guitar. This application received a warm welcome and garnered a great deal of publicity.

In September, we were invited to contribute to a study on the use of blog sites as methods of communication for visually impaired persons. The study is sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Leading the study is a scholar who is, himself, visually impaired.

Other projects completed in 2018 by the web team were:

- Implementation of the Mojo Helpdesk Ticketing System;
- and, Accessibility/Usability presentations at Drupal Camp Texas and AccessU on behalf of TSBVI.

The traffic to our site remained strong with over 2,100,000 visits and over 20,000,000 page views. 65% of our visitors reached our sites through search engines; Google searches account for 49% of that total.



Intranet status:

The intranet remains a stable source for forms, procedures and departmental information as well as a central location for links to software applications such as:

- Abila (purchasing)
- GHG
- TSBVI Media System
- Skyward
- Live Binders
- esped
- Student Care System (SCS)
- TSBVI Bridge Information
- OSIR

It also maintains Campus-wide shared information such as:

- Compprogs Daily Information Sheet
- Procedures
- Phone Lists
- Forms
- Letterhead
- Weekends home information and handbook
- Residential schedules and requirements

The campus is moving toward more of a Google shop with Calendars, Forms, Contacts, Team Drives, Google Classroom, etc. The move right now is to transform word forms on the Intranet to Google Forms, which are more accessible.



A short list of what we've done with Google so far:

1. Warehouse requisition form
2. Wildcat awards
3. Business Payment Authorization Form
4. ARD CALENDARS
5. Comprehensive Programs Activity Calendar
6. Staff Development Calendar
7. Student Team Meeting Calendars
8. AV Support and Equipment Request Form

A photo and information repository was added for pictures by year (including historical pics) and history.tsbvi.edu was launched. Many of the stored old photographs have been incorporated into the site. This isn't Intranet-specific, but since the curator/creator of the museum is also the Intranet manager, this worked out quite nicely.

In the future, a different type of repository will be needed for internal procedures. These are both in Google Drive for searching and in Word Documents linked from the Intranet - dual set of documents. Also, in the future, the number of Word forms should be reduced and made into Google forms (for accessibility and the expediency of information sent from one department or person to the next for efficiency.) The efficacy of this plan will be borne out by new people coming on staff that may have a more intimate knowledge of all things computer and online/web resources).

This year also sees the manager of the Intranet retiring. In this, procedures are being created on how to manage the Intranet and are located in files shared with the IR Director. Removal of systemic emails directed at the Intranet manager's email has been accomplished. Also, tags were added to most articles for better searching and old articles (web pages) archived or removed in great quantities. The number of broken links were reduced due to a new type of link checker and calls/tickets regarding this matter have been reduced greatly.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM 2017-2018

TSBVI has an active volunteer program with participation by many members of the Austin community. TSBVI works with community groups who want to perform a community service and choose to do so at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired as well as individuals who would like to give some of their time to help our staff and students. TSBVI also is invited to speak to several Applied Learning and Development classes at the University of Texas to recruit UT students as volunteers for their required service learning hours. During the 2016-17 school year, we experienced several wonderful group projects that benefited the students. We also trained and placed 41 new volunteers, 20 special event volunteers and 34 Apple mentors.

- TSBVI was again chosen to be a project of The Junior League of Austin, whose members recorded and scanned dozens of books for the library. The 15 JLA women gave 50 hours each in service
- 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 White Cane Day and Parent Weekend with decorations, serving and face painting, and helped the students dress for the prom.
- 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.
- 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 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 brought in a Humvee and motorcycles to Parent Weekend and helped out on White Cane Day.
- Volunteers helped during Parent Weekend in child care, face painting, lunchroom duty and supervised many of the activities of the day, such as the bounce house, hamster ball race, and climbing wall.
- A new group of 19 Apple employees joined the 18 from last year as volunteers in a mentor program supervised by one of our technology teachers.
- UT students participated in the "Coding Club" after school and provided an Hour of Code training for students.

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 2017 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.
- Helped in art class
- Assisted in physical education classes.
- Helped in swim classes.
- Assisted in a college prep class.
- Assisted in the science lab.
- Tutored math individually and in math study hall.
- Tutored physics, algebra and geometry and calculus..
- Helped with arts and crafts activities in a dorm.
- Helped a student learn hand sewing.
- Prepared materials for teachers.
- Assisted in the science lab.
- Worked with TSBVI cheerleaders and pep squad.
- Assisted in the LEO club meetings and community activities
- Provided music lessons in percussion, singing, violin, flute, cello and piano.
- Tutor students to take the TSI math exam
- Were guide runners for students practicing for the South Central Association Track Meet.



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.

One University of Texas volunteer wrote, “My volunteer work allowed to have a better grasp of what it means to serve students with disabilities well, while at the same time not enabling them. It was a steep learning curve but getting thrown into the mix forced me to adapt and take what I was learning in class into the field. I wouldn’t trade my work in that place for anything. I’ve made good friends and great contacts for life. Those teachers inspire me and excite me even more to teach one day.

During the 2017-18 school year, more than 150 individual volunteers logged in over 1750 hours working at TSBVI. Independent Sector, a leadership forum for non-profits, estimates the dollar value of volunteer time in 2018 at \$24.69 per hour; therefore, TSBVI benefited from over \$43,207 worth of community volunteer time!



TSBVI Major Donors 2017-2018

\$1,000 - \$10,000

Apple Inc
Andy MaClaurin
Janna & Michael Margrave
Point Venture Lions Club
Delta Gamma Foundation
Greater Houston Community Foundation
The Beken, Bell, Lewis, Hrozek Families & Friends /
Edward Allison, Remax Realtors

\$500 - \$999

Gregory Scott Addison
Barney & Betty Schul
Cooley LLP, Attorneys at Law
American Dental Partners Foundation

\$100 to \$499

Helen Frey
Applied Materials
Bill & Charlene Herbert
M. Ramanathan
Renee & Martha Martinez
Lott, Vernon & Company, P.C.
Julie Nielson, Rich Lampert, Belinda Rosas, Laura Lindsey,
Glenda Torrence & Bryan Maffett

A History of the TSBVI Locations in Austin, Texas From 1856 to 2018



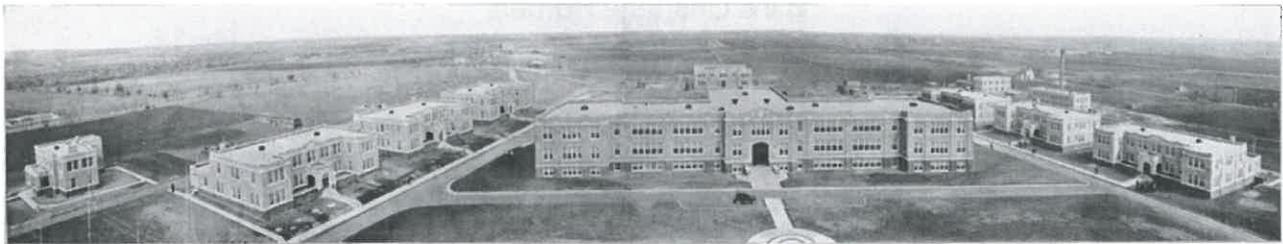
Neill Cochran House 1857-1859



The Texas Blind, Deaf and Orphan
School 1887-1965



Texas Institution for the Blind on the University of Texas site 1859-1885



Main Campus completed in 1916



Main campus completely rebuilt from 2009 to 2015



CONCLUSION

The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired strives every day to live up to its reputation for excellence and relevance. Our programs and services on campus, statewide, and on the web are driven by the needs and guidance of our stakeholders. TSBVI belongs to all of us in Texas, and those of us who work at the school keep that well in mind.

