



2022 - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**Texas School for the
Blind and Visually
Impaired**

TSBVI

TSBVI 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.



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President



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Inclusion, Individualization, and Innovation

TSBVI strives to provide inclusive opportunities for all of the 11,000 students identified as blind, deafblind, or having low vision across Texas. Through Outreach, Short-term and Summer Programs, Curriculum, and our Comprehensive Program, we aim to create resources and meaningful instruction matching the needs of every student who relies on our expertise.

In an effort to expand our inclusive efforts, TSBVI continues to engage more mentors, hire more employees, and partner with more professionals who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision. We believe that providing role models for our students is a critical component of their future success. They've met educators, scientists, advocates, leaders, college students, and others who represent their potential future selves and their individual interests.

Through the process of connecting students to adults with similar representation, we're paving the way for student innovation and reinvention. Students are seeking varied intern placements off campus, traveling to conferences, showcasing talents through local art shows and podcast recordings, improving communication skills, and learning how to advocate for accessibility and more. Our students need exposure to new ideas and dreams to realize their full potential, and partnering with others who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision gives them that lens.

While remaining an educational leader, TSBVI continues to seek ways to improve and grow. The progress you'll read throughout these pages highlights that fact. Our students are reaching new heights, and we invite you to learn all about their climb within this year's report.

Sincerely,

Emily Coleman

TSBVI HISTORY



The Texas Legislature originally established TSBVI as the Blind Asylum in 1856. Classes were first taught at the residence of Mr. W. L. Hill in Austin TX. The School's first move was to the "Little Campus", Arno Nowotny Building/Custer House at the University of Texas, and what is now known as the Heman Sweatt Campus. In 1887, a second campus called the Institute for Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Colored Youths was established on Bull Creek Road in Austin and later renamed the Texas Blind, Deaf, & Orphan School for African American Students.

In 1917, the School's name was changed to the Texas School for the Blind and was moved to the 45-acre campus on West 45th Street. In 1965, the School was racially integrated, and children from the Texas Blind, Deaf, and Orphan School for African-American Students were able to attend the 45th street campus.

In response to the Rubella epidemic of the 60's and the subsequent increase in children who were Deafblind, a special program 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, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI), to reflect more accurately the population it serves.

The campus began major renovations from 2008-2019 and virtually every building on campus was replaced with modern, purpose built, state of the art facilities. The campus is continuing to evolve to meet the needs of its students with recent upgrades that include: perimeter fencing and gates, a covered walkway, an outdoor pavilion, clear campus signage, and campus wide public address system.

Throughout the twists and turns of our history, what has remained constant is the dedicated commitment from staff, teachers, principals, and superintendents to create a special place empowering students who are blind, visually impaired, or Deafblind to lead independent lives.

Vision, Mission, and Structure

Our Vision

All Texas students who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision will be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

Our Mission

We serve as a leading center of expertise and resources, working in partnership with schools, families, communities, and organizations to transform outcomes for students, ages birth to 22, who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision.

Our Structure

TSBVI's services are organized into three program areas, Comprehensive, Short-Term, and Outreach. Each program is designed to meet the diverse educational needs of our students. We collaborate with families, school districts, state agencies and Education Service Centers to provide the support they need to help students succeed in their local school and community.

To provide a robust level of state-wide instructional support and wraparound services, TSBVI employs 371 full-time equivalent positions. These positions include:

- ▶ classroom teachers
- ▶ teacher aides
- ▶ job coaches
- ▶ service staff
- ▶ orientation and mobility instructors
- ▶ speech-language pathologists
- ▶ occupational therapists
- ▶ physical therapists
- ▶ psychologists
- ▶ behavior specialists
- ▶ counselors
- ▶ social workers
- ▶ nurses
- ▶ residential staff
- ▶ clerical staff
- ▶ business office staff
- ▶ admissions and records
- ▶ information resources
- ▶ food service workers
- ▶ transportation
- ▶ security staff

TSBVI Funding

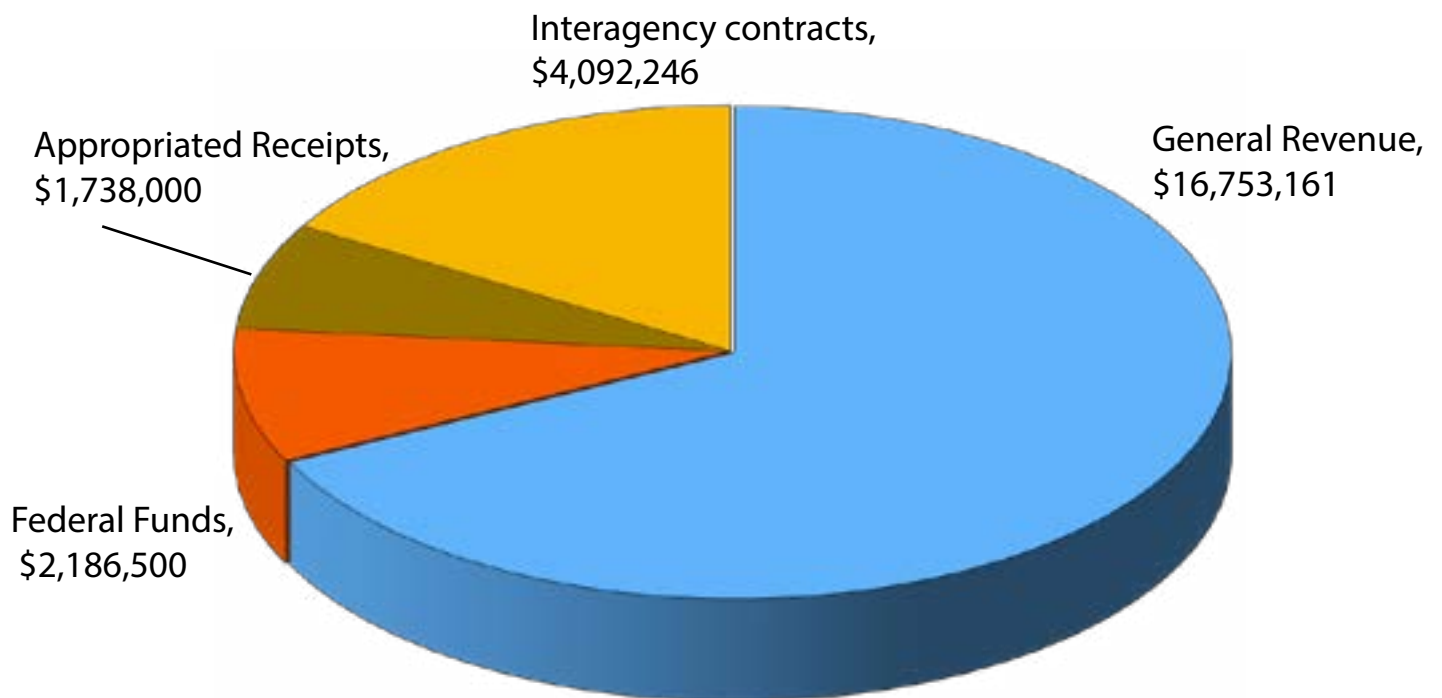
Ann Du
Chief Financial Officer

The School is primarily funded through appropriations granted by the State Legislature.

Appropriations categories include:

- ▶ General revenue, \$16,753,161
- ▶ Federal funds, \$2,186,500
- ▶ Appropriated receipts, \$1,738,000
- ▶ Interagency contracts, \$4,092,246

Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriated Funds



Fiscal Year 2023 Total Funding
\$24,769,907

Comprehensive Programs

Miles Fain, Principal

Kindergarten-12

TSBVI provides full-time comprehensive programs during the regular school year to expand the educational opportunities for students across the state. Districts refer students for placement to acquire a specific set of skills that, once learned, will allow the student to return to their local school. At TSBVI, students receive intensive instruction in all areas of the expanded core 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

This program, offered in partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission, 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.

Accreditation and Legislative Budget Board Standards

TSBVI had three performance measures by which the Texas Education Agency (TEA) determined its accreditation status for 2022-2023 and TSBVI exceeded all three measures:

1. 82% of students for whom TSBVI Performance Indicator Evaluations are administered will score 2.0 or higher (indicating at least moderate progress) in every Core and Expanded Core Curricular area in which they are receiving programming as determined by the ARD committee. TSBVI students achieved 87.70% in 2022-2023.
2. The percentage of students at TSBVI passing the statewide assessment will meet or exceed the percentage of the passing rate of students in special education in Texas. The Texas special education passing rate for students in 2022-2023 was 44% while TSBVI students achieved a 54% passing rate.

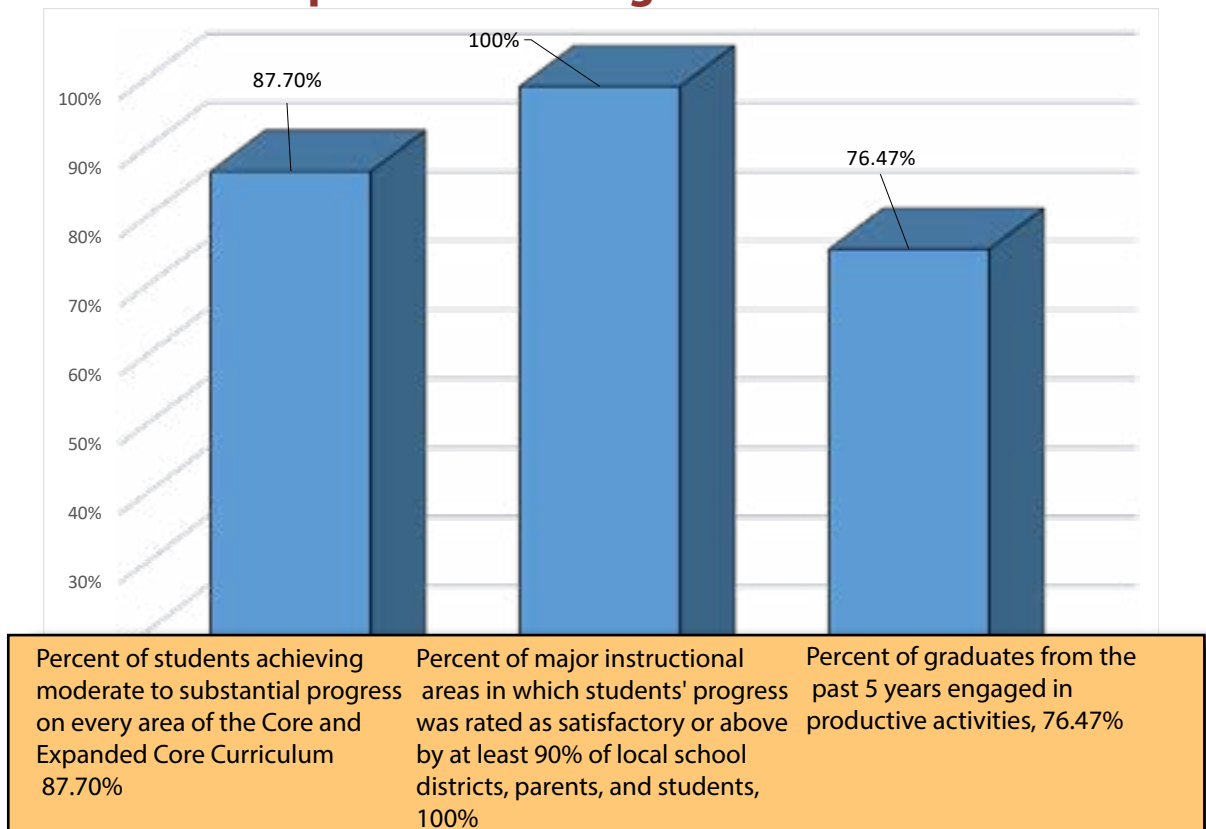
Accreditation and Legislative Budget Board Standards

3. 75% of graduated students from the past five years will be engaged in productive activities (including employed, enrolled in post-secondary education or training, homemakers with dependents, engaged in unpaid work or participating in volunteer activities on an ongoing basis). 76.47% of TSBVI graduates were engaged in productive activities in the 2023 survey.

TSBVI sets performance measures each biennium with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) that are tied to its Legislative Appropriations Request. For students served in Comprehensive Programs, five performance measures were set for the 2022-23 school year. They include standards tied to the three TEA Accreditation measures above plus two additional standards. TSBVI met or exceeded the three measures listed above as well as the following two standards:

1. 60% of statewide assessment tests will be passed in 2022-23. TSBVI students achieved a 62.50% passing rate.
2. Student progress in 100% of the ten major instructional areas will be rated as satisfactory, very satisfactory, or outstanding by at least 90% of parents, local school districts and students. Progress in all ten or 100% of the instructional areas was rated as satisfactory, very satisfactory or outstanding in the 2023 survey.

Comprehensive Programs Measures



Achievements and Recognition

The following staff members received national Principals of Schools for the Blind recognition for the 2022-23 school year:

- ▶ Outstanding Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments Award: Craig Edgley
- ▶ Outstanding Teacher of Students who are Blind with Additional Disabilities: Kristine Seljenes
- ▶ Outstanding Paraprofessional: Brittany Francis
- ▶ Outstanding Related Services Provider: Burnsteen Smith
- ▶ Outstanding Director: Kate Borg

Teacher Haley Moberg received the 2023 Texas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (TAER) Julia L. Young Award as an individual who has done outstanding work with children who are visually impaired in Texas.

Award winners with their plaque



Activities and Resources

- ▶ Learning Resource Center (LRC)

The LRC continues to be a hub of activities with students stopping by throughout the day to check out books, download books onto their devices, create in the Mini Maker Space or check out equipment. Librarian, Renee Toy, conducts reading and story time with 11 classes every week. Instructional, Residential, and Weekends Home staff come to the LRC to collaborate, find instructional materials, work on computers or sometimes just to find a good audio book for their commute.

- ▶ The Recording Studio/Lab

Our computer lab has now been fully transformed into an accessible podcasting studio. This year we have two Computer Science classes and an Audio/Visual Production class held in this amazing new space.

- ▶ Assistive Technology Classes (ATECH)

There are two ATECH classes held in the LRC. ATECH is an innovative class created by the TSBVI Curriculum department and Region 4. The purpose of this class is to provide students opportunities to use their assistive technology as it would be used in a workplace.

Activities and Resources

The beginning of the school year is spent building foundational skills like keyboarding, and navigation, and then applying these skills to create projects of high interest. Students also get an opportunity to tear down and rebuild computers while documenting the steps they took to accomplish this task. This year, the Computer Science classes are taking on greater challenges in programming and 3D printing. Students will be capable of problem-solving through designing, creating, and manufacturing solutions to barriers encountered in life.

► Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

This year we grouped our teachers and related service staff members into sixteen Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), based on subject and learner type, and each of these groups had a designated PLC lead. Our PLCs met once a week to support each other in the professional work of instructional design and collective problem-solving. PLCs are common in K-12 schools around the country, and we've adopted many of the principles outlined in the book *Revisiting Professional Learning Communities at Work: New Insights for Improving Schools* in the design of our PLC initiative. Our PLC leads met once a month as a study group to read through select passages from this book as well. This year our PLCs are continuing to meet weekly and are improving our cross-team collaboration.

Students meet author Chris Barton



The central questions guiding each PLC meetings are:

What do we want students to learn?

How will we know when they've learned it?

What will we do if they've already learned it?

What will we do if they haven't learned it?

Each PLC also has a shared Google Drive where they are storing their meeting minutes and curating shared resources. The PLCs have been intentionally formed and structured, and we're hoping that they'll lead to a better support system for our new teachers as well.

Student learning the parts of a microscope



Activities and Resources Continued

► TechCats Newsletter

Instructional Technology Coordinator Daniel Wheeler produces a monthly internal staff newsletter called the TechCats Newsletter that compiles news, updates, tech tips, resources, campus tech highlights, and accessibility updates to help staff stay up to date with all things technology at TSBVI.

► Semester Tech Work Groups

Instructional Technology Coordinator Daniel Wheeler and Assistive Technology Specialist John Castillo led a weekly tech work group on Google Apps Accessibility. The group consisted of 12 staff across various departments, and they met on Monday evenings to improve their technical skills with accessing and producing accessible content using Google Apps.

Assistive Technology Teacher Jen Guerra is leading a semester work group for beginner JAWS users that meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

► MakerSpace Expanding

The MakerSpace has moved to the Fine Arts building and will be ready for teachers to schedule their classes after some work on the

flooring is complete. Many of the low-tech materials have remained in the LRC, our Mini MakerSpace, for easy access for students and teachers while many of the high tech and construction activities have been relocated to the Fine Arts classroom. One laser cutter is in the LRC workroom and another is being installed in the new MakerSpace classroom, providing even more students with opportunities to design and create projects.

► Braille Books on Demand

Research has shown that giving students the ability to choose what they read leads to a greater interest in reading and improved literacy. Amanda Storaasli and Mindy Hudson, both certified transcribers, continue to create braille books for students on-demand. This is one of the most important services provided to our students. These books are entered into the library collection and are available to others. One of the library's goals has been to increase the number of grade 1 braille books for beginning and early readers. We continue to grow and expand our braille book collection, adding more and more books in UEB.

Students hold a green picture frame to signify their participation in the *Start With Hello Week* activities



Activities and Resources Continued

► Audio Books

We have enjoyed an ongoing relationship with the dedicated volunteers of the Junior League of Austin who continue to record a large number of books that wouldn't be available to our students otherwise. They will scan books for us to put into braille when we can't get editable text from other sources. This year we have had additional volunteers from VT Seva, a volunteer organization whose mission is to empower youth with the values of volunteerism. This motivated group has children recording books for our school library and has made a large donation for the purpose of creating a dedicated listening center here in our library. The variety of audio picture books has been invaluable to our elementary students.

► Book Clubs

High School Book Club takes place during lunch on Wednesday each week. Our

cafeteria staff packs sack lunches that students eat in the library while we all read, discuss and enjoy books. This year there are 8 students who participate in this weekly fun event.

► Additional Activities in the LRC

We continue to have a variety of classes drop in the library each week to read books, participate in literacy activities and have book celebrations. We just celebrated Banned Book Week, had a Voter's Registration Drive, hosted Mentor Center TVI visitors, had a Talking Book Program Registration Fair and hosted award-winning author, Chris Barton, in a school-wide presentation. LRC staff provide braille, tactile graphics, large print, and large format materials to everyone on campus.

Theater students holding hands in a circle



Student mixing ingredients in a bowl



Career Education

We continued to implement our five-step continuum of Career Education courses for students in Middle School, High School, and EXIT. These courses provide content and experiential learning opportunities that are designed to help students and their families narrow down goals for future employment.

Courses in the continuum are:

- ▶ General Employability
- ▶ Methodology for Academic and Personal Success (MAPS)
- ▶ Work Exploration
- ▶ Student to Industry Connection
- ▶ Work Training

We offer the following CTE courses:

- ▶ Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness
- ▶ Principles of Human Service
- ▶ Interpersonal Studies
- ▶ Child Development
- ▶ Principles of Hospitality
- ▶ Hospitality Services
- ▶ General Employability
- ▶ Student to Industry Connection
- ▶ Assistive Technology (ATECH)
- ▶ Fundamentals of Computer Science (TAFCS)
- ▶ Computer Science I

Student making a nutritious snack



We continued to offer the following locally developed Career Education courses:

- ▶ Work Exploration- Students participate in a work based practicum, on-campus, that is tailored to students individual interests.
- ▶ Work Training-Students are paired with community based vocational sites that match their interests and aptitudes. Students learn to apply the skills learned in on-campus courses.
- ▶ Career Tech- A technology course that focuses on the tools that employers use regularly. A focus is placed on the use of Google Suite products and Microsoft Office products in a work setting, as well as how to utilize social media platforms in a professional manner.

Career Education Continued

The Career Education program placed students for community based work training at the following locations:

- ▶ Austin Lighthouse for the Blind
- ▶ HEB
- ▶ Wheatsville Co-Op
- ▶ Cafe Monet
- ▶ Goodwill of Central Texas
- ▶ DoubleTree Hotel
- ▶ Juiceland
- ▶ Clint Small Middle School
- ▶ Austin Dog Alliance
- ▶ Gethsemane Lutheran Child Development Center
- ▶ Thinkery
- ▶ University of Texas E4 Program
- ▶ New Century Hospice
- ▶ Ten Thousand Villages
- ▶ Spero Rehab



Student mixing a pot on the stove

▶ Lighthouse for the Blind

The Austin Lighthouse hosted 9 student interns. We partnered with Texas School for the Deaf in this endeavor. Two students from TSD who are DeafBlind participated. One of these students was recently hired by the Lighthouse. In this student Work Training experience, students received new employee orientation, information on benefits and payroll processes, on the job training in the warehouse, retail store, laundry services, front desk, retail store, vocational training and technology classes.

▶ HEB

TSBVI also continued its partnership with the HEB Bridges program by having four students intern at a local store. Students participated in bagging duties, compiling and stocking returned items, and light cleaning responsibilities. Students quickly became part of the HEB team and were working independently with intermittent staff support. Additionally, one student from the EXIT Programs obtained competitive employment at HEB.

Student dancing with a professional dancer



Additional Career Education Initiatives

► Career Cafe

The Career Education Coordinator collaborated with our Transition Coordinator and School Counselor to offer a “Career Cafe.” This was an opportunity for students of all ages to listen to professionals (some of whom are blind and visually impaired) speak about a variety of careers and gain firsthand experience with the tools of various trades and professions.

► Business Advisory Council

Our council, which we established in the fall of 2020, consists of industry representatives, Blind/ Visually Impaired professionals, students, parents, and professionals from both education and vocational rehabilitation. The committee meets twice a year to identify areas of improvement for the Career Education Program.

► Residential Work Training Program

The Residential Work Program continued to provide students with meaningful, authentic work experiences in the evening hours. The career education department worked closely with dorm teachers to enhance the program. They created a menu of jobs, wrote routines for each job and developed a consistent system for student payment. They are currently working on developing a training program for students and Residential Instructors.

“Staff are always willing to collaborate and think outside of the box. He loves school and loves learning.”

► Student Employees of the Month

The Career Education Professional Learning Community decided to focus on clear communication in the classroom. One result of this effort is the addition of a “Student Employee of the Month”. Each month, two students (one in High School and one in the EXIT Program) earn this recognition by demonstrating professional communication skills.

► TSBVI Farmer’s Market

TSBVI Farmer’s Market: Students made a variety of artisanal items and small batch craft foods for sale on-campus. The variety of handmade items reflected the interests of students and allowed opportunities for them to discover new vocational skills and aptitudes. This program integrates money management, customer service, art, communication, cooking and independent living skills in a real-world setting.



Student cooking in a commercial kitchen

Fine Arts

Our Fine Arts programs continue to provide TSBVI students with experiences that promote lifelong learning and their love of the arts.

The classical guitar program, led by Music Teacher Jeremy Coleman, just completed its 12th consecutive year. The choir and jazz ensembles were combined to form a jazz combo and students participated in their usual White Cane Day, Family Day and Holiday/End-of-the-Year Big Show concerts. Jazz combo students also participated in South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) in January of 2023 and represented our school in Alabama.

Our theater department, directed by Mr. Tony Salinas, collaborated with the choir and put on a production of Disney's "Finding Nemo Jr." Elementary, middle, and high school students rehearsed for months and performed 3 shows that were open to the public.

Music Teacher Eva VanHouten continues to teach the Suzuki strings group and formed a Mariachi ensemble. Her multicultural approach to music education built an interest in Mariachi music with some of our students as they explored instruments like the double bass and vihuela. She authored a music education grant for our school and received funds from the Mockingbird Foundation to purchase additional Mariachi instruments. The Air Force Band woodwind quartet members performed for students in the auditorium on March 6 after school.

Art Students had a spectacular art show collaboration with the artists of Almost Real Things Art Gallery called "Touch the Art." The artists of Almost Real Things met with Art Teacher Gretchen Bettes and art students to get to know them and talk about art and what it means to be an artist. The goal of this collaboration was to celebrate diversity and inclusiveness by creating a more accessible exhibition. All of the art in the show was touchable and it was a full sensory experience with sound-focused installations, musical performances and a taste market! Opening night welcomed many people from the Austin community and the students sold all of their art.



"I like the school because I like learning and making good progress."

Clubs and After School Activities

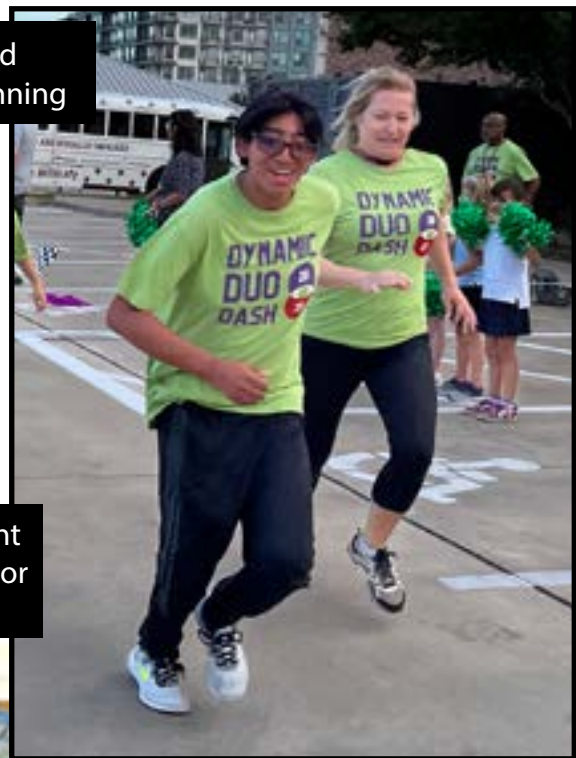
Students are encouraged to explore activities outside of their regular school classes. These activities build interpersonal skills and confidence to try new things. Clubs and activities offered include:

- ▶ yoga
- ▶ dance
- ▶ art on the dorm
- ▶ choir
- ▶ coding
- ▶ Music Mania
- ▶ music recording
- ▶ scrapbooking
- ▶ cooking & baking
- ▶ walking & running on campus
- ▶ jewelry making
- ▶ gardening
- ▶ book club
- ▶ quiz night
- ▶ YMCA Jan-March
- ▶ bowling
- ▶ music lessons
- ▶ rock wall climbing
- ▶ Venture Crew
- ▶ beading
- ▶ weaving
- ▶ macramé
- ▶ puzzles
- ▶ clay modeling

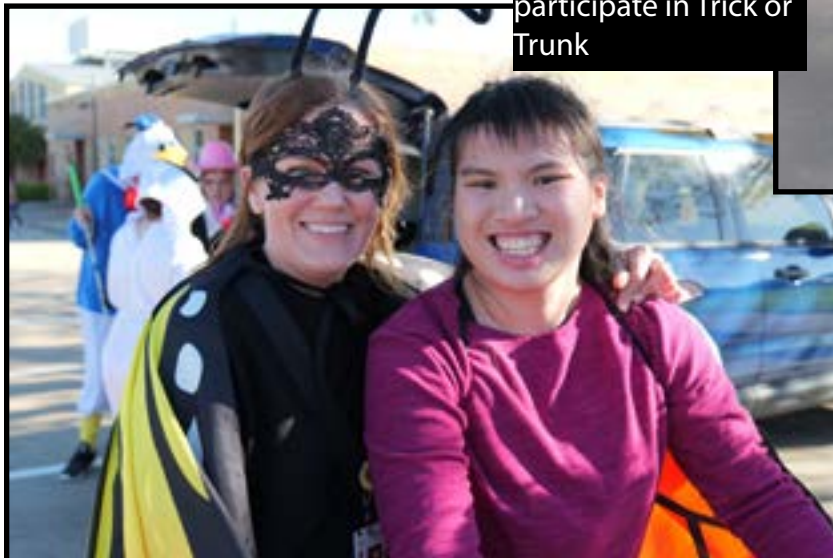
▶ Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Holiday themed schoolwide fitness event

▶ Duo Dash 1K Turkey Trot was held on campus on with the Girls School of Austin.

Student and teacher running



Teacher and student participate in Trick or Trunk



▶ Trick or Trunk with the UT Austin Delta Gamma Sorority followed by a Halloween Party

Athletics

► UIL Wrestling

Capital Classic, Boys 2022 UIL Wrestling Tournament, Bowie High School, November 18-19.

Crossroads JV Round Robin Wrestling Tournament, Victoria, Texas, December 8.

McCallum High School vs. TSBVI UIL Wrestling Tournament, January 11.

South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) Wrestling, Cheerleading and Performing Arts, at the Alabama School for the Blind, January 27-28. The wrestling team placed 3rd; cheerleaders placed 4th; our mascot placed 3rd; and the members of the classical guitar group, choir, jazz ensemble performed.

UIL District 13-5A Wrestling Tournament in Austin on February 4. Heather D., Darrius M., and Michael F. participated. Heather D. placed 3rd in the Girls 100 weight class.

Regional Wrestling Meet at the Austin ISD Delco Center on February 10-11. Heather D. participated.

► Goalball

Cascade Classic Goalball tournament, in Vancouver, at the Washington School for the Blind, on October 1 & 2. The boys' and the girls' teams advanced into the Semi-Finals and Medal Rounds UNDEFEATED! With both teams winning the GOLD!

Sports Extravaganza competition in Dallas, October 28-29. The advanced boys team, Chris Z., AJon and Jacob B. took 1st place. The intermediate boys team Christian S., Drake G. and Oscar G. also took 1st place in their division. The Girls team, Jessica B., Jazmine K.,

Heather D, and Maiela S., took 2nd place in a hard-fought battle against Oklahoma. All of the students participated in Track and Field events on Saturday and came home with many medals and ribbons.

U.S. National High School Goalball Championships hosted by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, November 3-6. Girls and Boys teams both earned second place. Darrius M. was recognized individually by making the All-American Team.

► Ten Athletes Named to First-Ever USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team, including former TSBVI Wildcat Ricardo Castaneda from Fort Worth.

► Student Darrius M. was named to the USA Youth Goalball team. As a result, Darrius attended the Parapan games in Colombia and the World Championship in Brazil.



Goalball player
Darrius M.

Boys' Goalball team:

Jacob B.
Ajon D.
Darrius M.
Javier S.
Chris Z.

Girls' Goalball team:

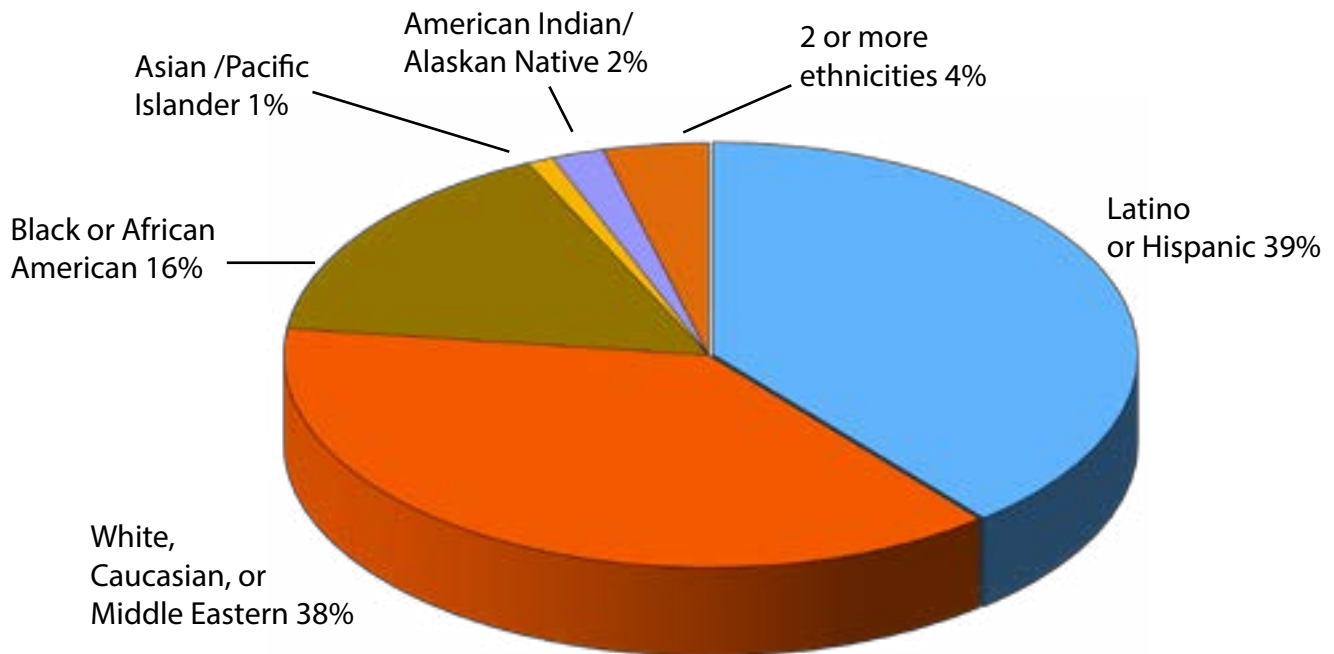
Heather D.
Jessica B.
Jazmine K.

Enrollment Statistics 2022-2023

140 students representing 98 local school districts throughout Texas were enrolled in Comprehensive Programs.

Comprehensive Programs	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Elementary Program	17	17	13	13	12
Secondary Program	132	122	119	121	120
Post-Secondary Program	7	6	0	2	8
Total	156	145	132	136	140

Ethnicity of Students in Comprehensive Programs



- Jump Rope for Heart fitness event to encourage movement and a healthy heart took place in the gym on March 8
- South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) Track, Field & Goalball Championships hosted at TSBVI on April 20-22. The boys' track team finished in 2nd place, while many of our individual students brought home some well-deserved medals. Additionally, the boys' goalball team won the gold medal, and the girls' team earned bronze.
- Delta Gamma Holiday Party, at the Delta Gamma Sorority House.





Student standing with his running guide

► Talent Show at the Recreation Building on April 12.

► The theater department presented: Finding Nemo, Jr., on April 27-29.

Student cracks a cascarone on the superintendent



► Hollywood Nights Prom took place on April 5 at the Red Oak Ballroom. The "Parent Paparazzi" welcomed students on the Red Carpet as they arrived.



Student dressed up for the prom

► The Semi-Modulars performed as a part of Fusebox Festival at Dada Lab on April 13, including material off of their new album, The Notorious Envelope Generator.

► The Semi-Modulars and the Spinrockers performed at Cherrywood Coffeehouse, May 11

Short-Term Programs

Sara Meritt, Principal

Short-Term Programs (STP) offers group and individualized classes for students who are blind or have low vision in Texas. Students participate in classes and activities with peers from across the state, either in-person or remotely. We offer both school-year and summer programs. Each program has a distinct purpose and targets instruction to a variety of student needs.

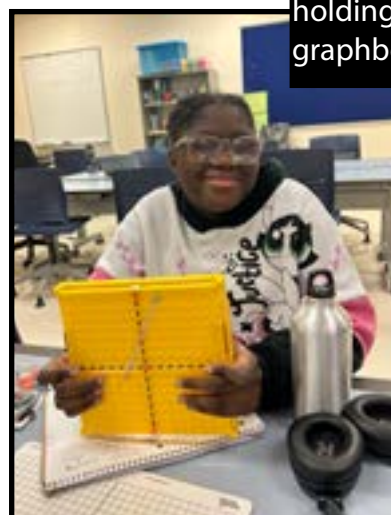
Short-Term Programs (School Year)

During the traditional school year, STP provides classes for students working on, or near, grade-level. These students need instruction in 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 long, as well as remote individualized instruction.

In addition to working on the academic objectives to which their districts refer, students receive instruction in other aspects of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for Students with Visual Impairments. This instruction includes independent living, travel, recreation and leisure, social interaction, and self-determination. Students learn alongside blind and low-vision peers who are also developing ECC skills. Instruction begins when students wake up and learn breakfast preparation skills before class and ends at bedtime, after an 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 STP classes.

Short-Term Programs Achievements (School Year)

- ▶ Served 279 students from across the state
- ▶ 97% percent of students demonstrated progress on goals/objectives
- ▶ Served students from 16 (of 20) educational regions
- ▶ Offered five new classes: Algebra I for credit, Fun with Art, Craft and Fine Motor, and In Your Element, #BlindBaddies, Magical World of STEAM
- ▶ Presented at Mentor Center, TAER, and Texas Tech University Assistive Tech Weekend (BrailleNote, iOS devices & ZoomText)



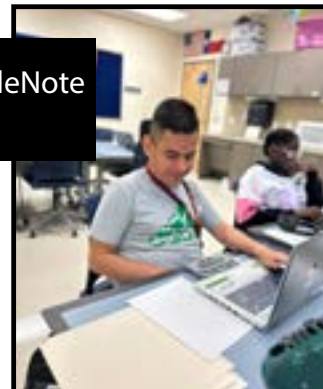
Student holding a graphboard

Course List, Online and In-Person (September - May)

During the school year, the STP team works diligently to provide a diverse selection of courses to meet the many needs of students at various grade levels and skill levels.

1. Individualized Instruction (Content determined by local district)
2. Algebra I (SBOE Credit)
3. Junior Focus on Low Vision Series
4. Elem. Weekend: Fun with Art, Craft, & Fine Motor (grades 3-5)
5. Junior Access to Academic Skills- Fall (grades 6-8)
6. Online Writer's Workshop Series #1 (grades 6-8)
7. Elementary Independence Weekend: Art Around the World (grades (3-5)
8. Junior Access to Academic Skills #1 (grades 6-8)
9. Writer's Workshop Series (grades 6-8)
10. Online Junior Focus of Low Vision Series #2 (grades 6-8)
11. Elementary Series Part A (grades 2-5)
12. In Your Element (Access to Chemistry) (grades 9-12)
13. Elementary Series Part B Prerequisite: Part A
14. High School Access to Academic Skills- Fall (grades 9-12)
15. Writer's Workshop Series #2 (grades 6-8)
16. Junior Focus on Low Vision Series #3
17. In the Driver's Seat (grades 9-12)
18. Elementary Series Part C Prerequisites: Parts A and B
19. Junior Focus on Low Vision Series #4
20. HS Independence Weekend: Iron Chef (grades 9-12)
21. Kitchen Chemistry (grades 6-8)
22. #Blind Baddies (grades 6-8)
23. Kitchen Chemistry (grades 6-8)
24. Elementary Access to Academic Skills- Spring (grades 3-5)
25. Game of Life (grades 6-9)
26. High School Access to Academic Skills- Spring (grades 9-12)
27. Wellness Weekend (grades 9-12)
28. Friday Junior Access to Academic Skills- Spring (grades 6-8)
29. Magical World of STEAM (grades 4-5)
30. Health and Well-Being (grades 5-7)
31. Capitol Experience (grades 9-12)
32. HS Ind. Weekend: Outdoor Challenge (grades 9-12)
33. City Travel for COMS and Their Students (grades 7-12)
34. HS Ind. Weekend: STP Formal Dance (grades 10-12)
35. Elem. Ind. Weekend: Outdoor Exploration (grades 3-5)

Student using a BrailleNote for his assignment

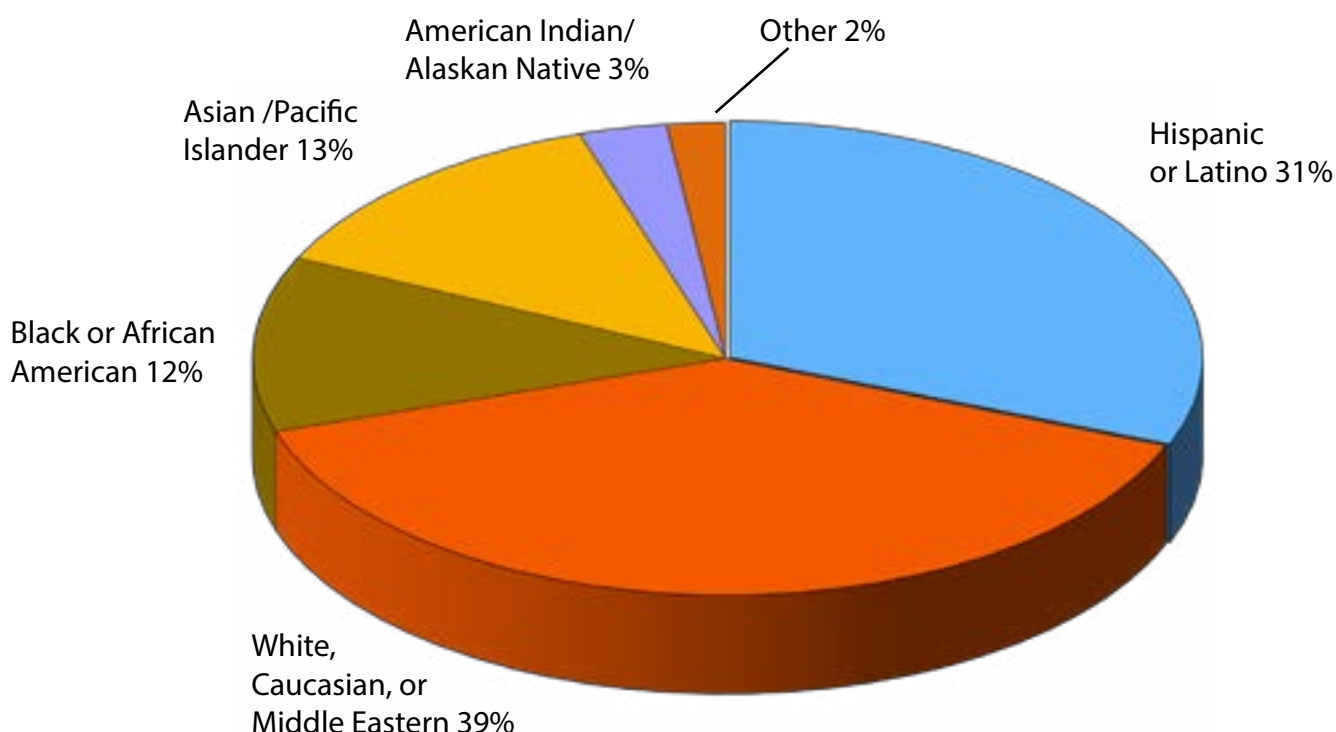


Short-Term Programs Enrollment Statistics (School Year)

STP served 279 students, representing 16 Education Service Centers from across the state.

Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Students	275	205	366	311	279

Ethnicity of Students in Short-Term Programs (School Year)



Short-Term Programs Survey Responses From Parents, Local School Districts, and Students (School Year)



"Love all the class options. My daughter absolutely loves attending TSBVI short-term programs. It is wonderful for her to interact with other VI students in an educational forum."

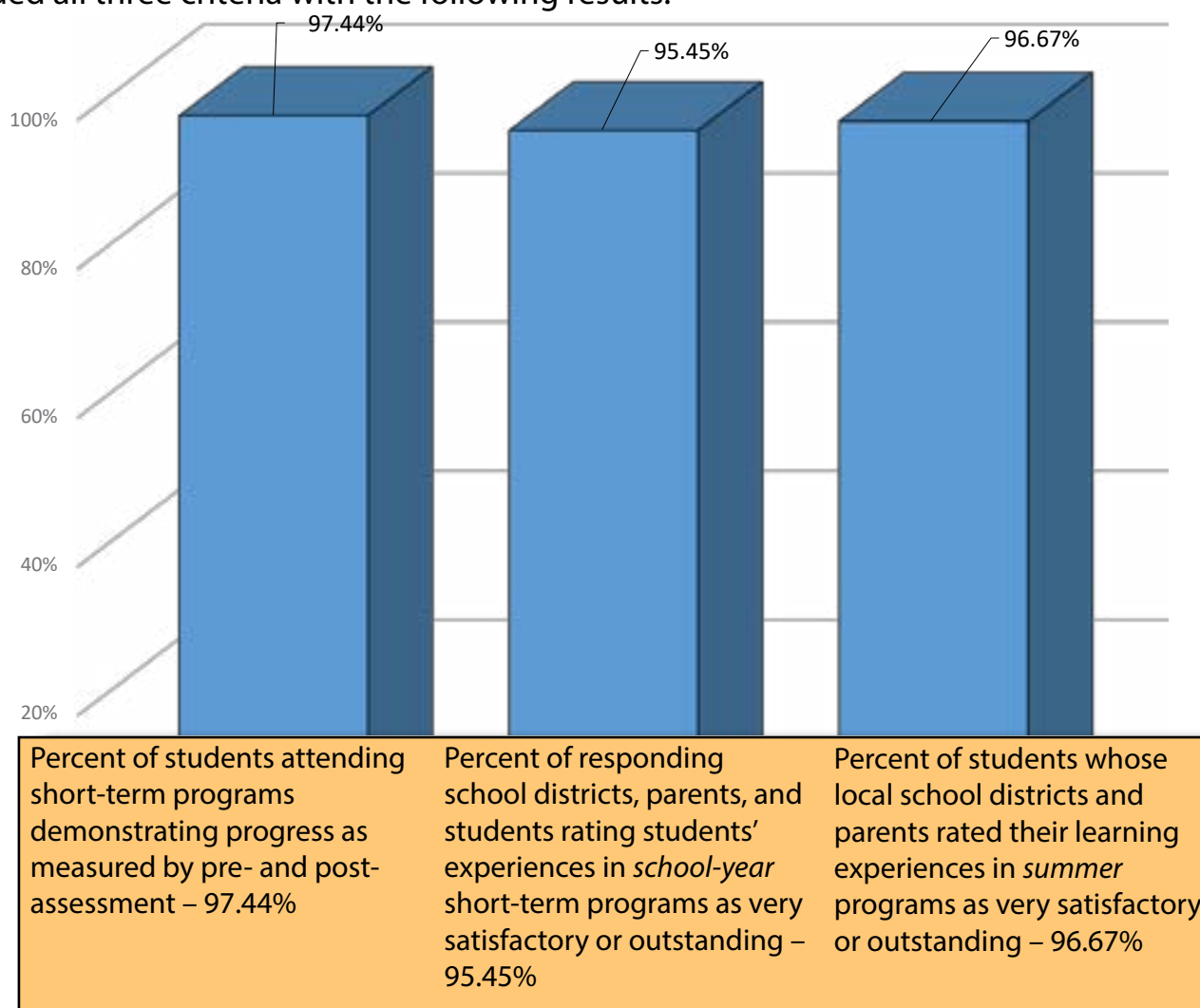
Student typing on a laptop using a braille keyboard



“This was an amazing and educational experience for my daughter. The collaboration with Dr. Shaw, his staff, students and other chemists was invaluable.”

Short-Term Programs Performance Measures 2022-2023

TSBVI had three performance criteria for 2022-2023 that are tied to measures developed with the Legislative Budget Board and/or appear in the School Improvement Plan. TSBVI exceeded all three criteria with the following results:



“We are so pleased with the growth, independence, and confidence she has gained from your programs.”

Short-Term Programs (Summer)

Summer programs serve students from across the state in enrichment classes, emphasizing 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. Priority is given to students who have never attended to increase access to this specialized opportunity. Students attend one of four different summer programs described below. This year, STP offered all programs in-person and on-campus.

- ▶ Secondary Enrichment (SE) provides middle and high-school-aged students opportunities to practice academic and vision-related skills in enrichment activities in unique themed classes.
- ▶ Elementary Summer Enrichment (ESE) provides students with opportunities to practice academic and vision-related skills in enrichment activities in theme-based classes.
- ▶ Summer Work Experience in Austin, Texas (SWEAT) provides high-school-aged students with paid jobs in the Austin community. Students receive intensive training in all aspects of work. Students also learn independent living skills to determine their strengths and needs as they prepare to leave traditional high school settings.
- ▶ Working and Living in the Community (WALIC) provides high-school-aged students with vocational opportunities. Students are usually enrolled in self-contained classrooms in their local districts and generally take the STAAR Alternate assessment.

Student and teacher using a measuring cup



Short-Term Programs Achievements (Summer)

Served 215 students

Served students from 17 (of 20) educational regions

96.67% of responding school districts and parents rated their experience in summer programs as very satisfactory or outstanding.

“Wonderful opportunity for low vision kids to learn new skills and focus in depth on already familiar skills.”

Students playing music on a xylophone

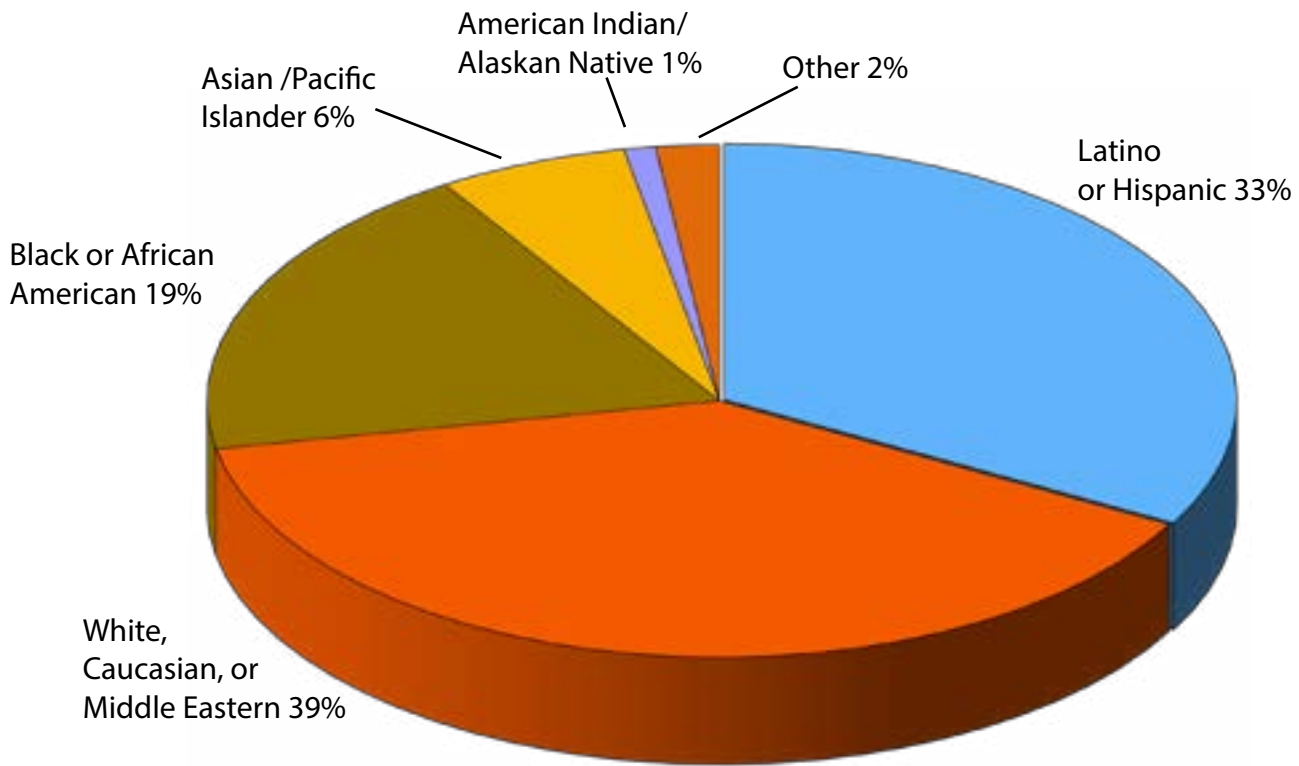


Enrollment Statistics (Summer)

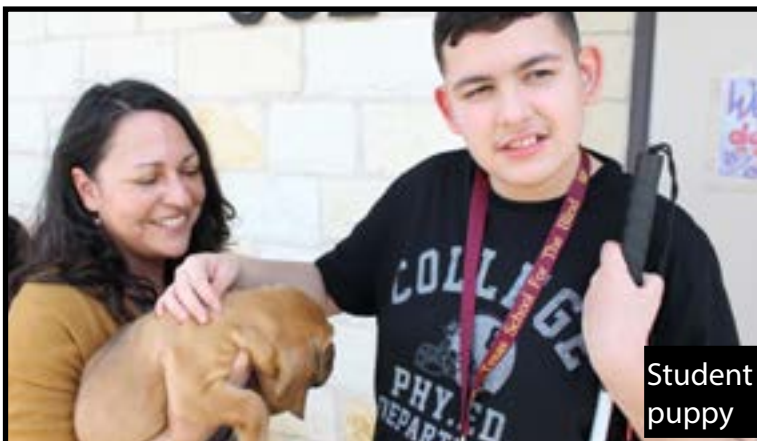
215 students attended, representing 17 of the 20 Education Service Center regions and 105 local school districts throughout Texas.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Students	177	108	169	220	215

Ethnicity of Students in Short-Term Programs (Summer)



Short-Term Programs Survey Responses From Parents, Local School Districts, and Students (Summer)



Student petting a puppy

"I cannot wait to come back with more students in the coming years. This program is wonderful!!"

"Great staff! My son always has a great time when he attends TSBVI. Thank you!"



Young student playing the keyboard



Student playing with foam

"My child loved the program, made new friends and stepped outside her comfort zone. Staff were great with encouraging and teaching much needed social skills and made learning fun."

"We are very pleased with all staff members from enrollment all the way to his departure. We value each and every one of you and appreciate you for all your hard work."



Student using orange safety gloves to cook

Outreach Programs

Kate Borg, Director

Outreach Programs provide statewide training and information for children and students who are blind, low vision, or deafblind. By working with families, Outreach educational teams and other related organizations, are able to offer support to students of all ages from birth through the transition out of school. Our focus is to support students in their homes and greater communities by bringing our services directly to schools with programs that provide consultations, coaching, and trainings, both in-person and virtually.

Outreach Programs support and collaborate with regional Education Service Centers (ESC). Students who are blind, low vision, or deafblind represent low incidence populations with diverse and unique needs. School Districts often turn to their regional ESC Consultant in Visual Impairment, Deafblind Specialist, or Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Those professionals then refer to the TSBVI Outreach Programs and work together for follow-ups and implementation. Together we provide a strong statewide system to support educational programs across Texas.

At the request of families or educators, Outreach provides support to family members and professionals caring for students who are blind, low vision, or deafblind. We collaborate with ESCs and partner with local, state, and national agencies and organizations to build and support quality programs at little or no charge to families or students. Services include:

- ▶ Individualized coaching consultations to families, schools, and other related agencies or community organizations
- ▶ Resources on visual impairments and deafblind strategies
- ▶ Training for families, professionals, and paraprofessionals through face-to-face and virtual workshops and conferences around the state
- ▶ Distance learning options via web-based live and archived webinars
- ▶ An online magazine (Texas SenseAbilities) produced with Health and Human Services' Blind Children's Program and Texas Workforce Commission, available in English and Spanish
- ▶ Ordering and distribution of materials from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) as part of the federal quota fund program
- ▶ Assistive technology available on short-term loan
- ▶ The Annual Registration of Students with Visual Impairments and the Texas Deafblind Child Count conducted for the Texas Education Agency
- ▶ Coordinating and providing statewide mentoring services for teachers in their first years of service

Consultation and Training

90.16% 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.

Outreach staff completed 117 student/school coaching cycles across 71 school districts in each of the ESC regions of Texas. These visits have documented success: 97.73% of respondents reported a positive change for the student, staff or family as a result of school consultations with Outreach staff. Doing a hybrid of both in-person and virtual consultations has allowed us to move to a coaching model, which has proved highly effective.

Outreach presented at, hosted, or facilitated 215 conferences and/or workshop sessions at local districts, regional service centers, and statewide and national venues, including via distance technologies, for 6,275 participants. Requests for workshops and training continue to come from state and national partners.

There were several statewide conferences sponsored by TSBVI Outreach, including: the Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education, Intervener Training, Intervener Train the Trainers, Braille "Boot Camp", the Southwest Orientation and Mobility Association Conference, Active Learning, Coffee Hours, Mentor Center, and a statewide Mentor Training. In addition, TSBVI Outreach staff presented at many related virtual conferences throughout the state and nation

Outreach 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, low vision devices and techniques, intervener training, calendars and routines, math teaching strategies for students with visual impairments, Active Learning, self-determination skills, early childhood specific strategies, behavior and distress, and much more.

Outreach recognizes the value of providing instructional opportunities for professionals to acquire ACVREP or SBEC continuing education units and continues to offer training that provides professional development and qualifying credits.

As stated previously, we hosted the Southwest Orientation and Mobility Association conference. It was held in Round Rock, and we had 254 attendees (223 professionals, 28 paraprofessionals and university students, and 3 family members) from across Texas, the nation, and internationally over the course of 2 ½ days. We had participants and session presenters from all over the country. Session topics covered O&M strategies and services for students across age and ability levels.

Students at wrestling practice



Achievements Continued

► Texas Deafblind Project

The federal Texas Deafblind Project grant, which ran from 2018-2023, funded several projects and activities to continue to ensure quality education for students who are deafblind throughout the state of Texas. During the last school year, we applied for and received a new grant for the next five years (2023-2028).

In February, the Project sponsored and hosted the in person Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education in Round Rock. We had 269 attendees (191 professionals, 32 paraprofessionals and university students, and 46 family members) from across Texas, the nation, and internationally over the course of 2 ½ days. Sessions covered a variety of topics related to deafblind education for various populations and settings. It was a great success!

Members of the Deafblind team also served on a committee to draft state certification standards for teachers of students who are deafblind, which were approved by SBEC and subsequently were adopted by SBOE. Team members are currently working on writing testing items for the state certification and licensing exam.

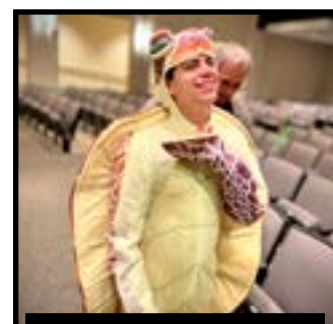
The Project also supported the second annual Mental Health Symposium regarding students who are deaf and deafblind. The conference was in person, and hosted speakers from all over the country who discussed strategies and practices to support positive mental health for students.

► Family Engagement

Families have a long-term impact on the outcome of their children's educational programs. Outreach continuously offers family support and consultations, participates in conferences and training for families, and acts as a resource to various family networks.

Family organizations thrive in TX in part due to the support of the Outreach Programs. This past year, organization leaders met 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.

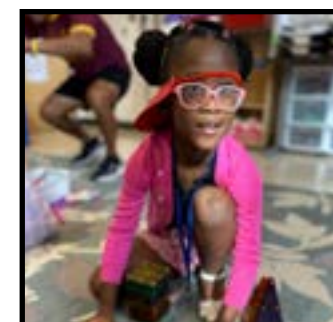
An initiative that grew out of the need for distance/online opportunities was designed specifically for families. Our Family Engagement and Transition Coordinators worked together to create a space for family members of students who are blind, low vision, or deafblind throughout Texas. This program was rebranded this last year as the monthly Family Recharge Zone (FRZ). An important aspect of FRZ is the protective space for families only, which has created an environment of collaboration and sharing. One participant shared, "The group meetings have meant a great deal to me. They have allowed me to voice my concerns about distance learning in a safe, caring and respectable environment. It's always nice to know that there are others in the same boat. It has been helpful to talk with professionals about what we are going through. It finally gave me the approval to stop being so hard on myself and to take some time to just breathe and to see the good in every day."



Student in a turtle costume for theater



Students participate in a mock wedding for a lesson on budgeting



Young student wearing a pink sweater

► Personnel Preparation and Mentoring

TSBVI is an active partner in professional development of new teachers of students with visual impairment and certified orientation and mobility specialists. With the support of the TSBVI's state and federal funds and the TSBVI VI mentor program, 37 new VI professionals were employed in Texas. Texas universities enrolled 94 new students into professional development coursework. During the 2022-2023 school year, 78 new teachers received mentoring. There are a total of 380 trained mentors throughout Texas (Teachers for Students with Vision Impairment and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists).

► Statewide Collaboration and Networks:

Outreach staff promote, expect, and appreciate collaboration with regional and statewide entities including:

1. The West Texas Cluster
2. Personnel Preparation Advisory Group
3. State Leadership Services for Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired
4. The Texas Assistive Technology Network
5. Family organizations in the wider disability field such as Parent to Parent and Texas Hands and Voices as well as blindness related family groups such as the Deafblind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT), Texas Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (TAPVI), and Texas Chargers
6. The Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans
7. The Texas Action Committee for the Education of Students with Visual Impairments
8. The Texas Interagency Task Force on DeafBlindness

The use of remote 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, our ability to provide support virtually proved invaluable and many of these 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, active learning strategies, and coaching. Virtual sessions allow professionals in their local communities to connect for scheduled topical discussions and provide access to expert assistance and a peer group for discussion without the costs of time and travel. During the 2022-2023 school year, there were 44,208 total registrations via ESCWorks for our virtual offerings. 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. 5,955 courses were completed through our E-Learning platform for 2713 CEUs awarded to 669 awardees.



Large group of participants at the DBMAT Conference

"This was a great learning opportunity for me to see and understand different ideas and backgrounds giving input on the student's education."

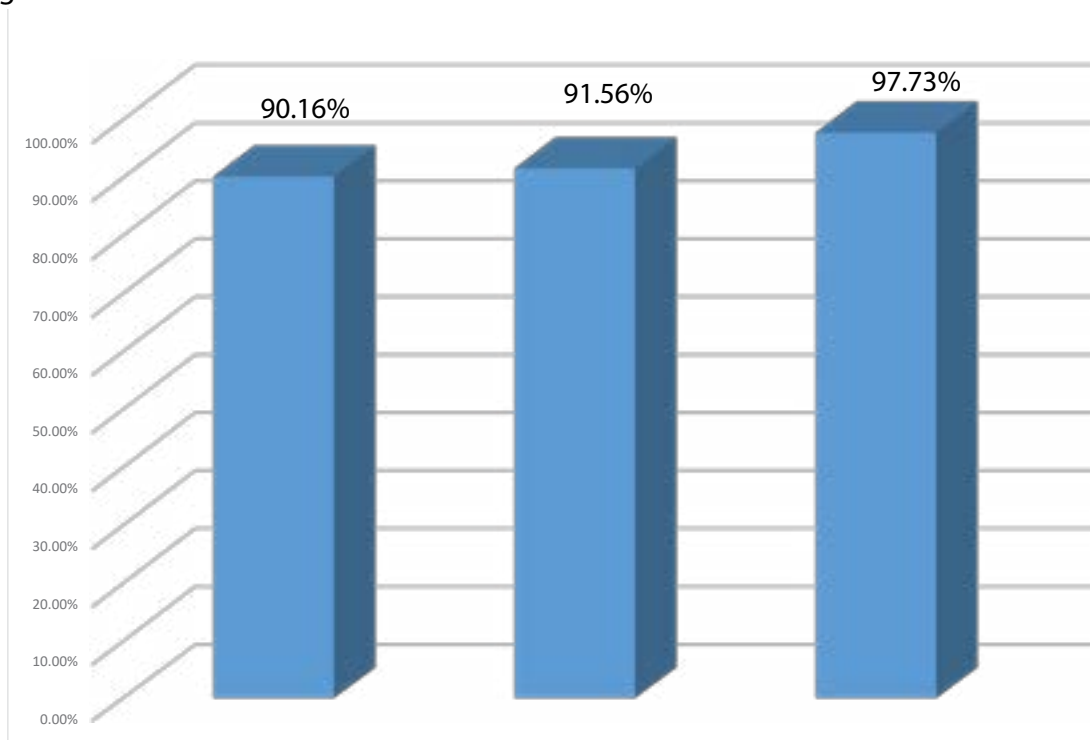
We continued offering Coffee Hour weekly. The purpose of these sessions is to provide training, collaboration, and professional development opportunities for service providers throughout the field. TSBVI Outreach providers presented information on various topics such as Active Learning, CVI, Assistive Technology, Distance Learning, Orientation & Mobility, and much more! We also collaborated with many others in the field across the globe to lead Coffee Hour sessions, which are still being offered and are well attended.

Outreach published two issues of Texas SenseAbilities, a publication about visual impairment and deafblindness for families and professionals. The magazine has 3 sections: Family Wisdom, Effective Practices, and News & Views. Content is curated by Outreach, TWC, and HHS staff and written by families and professionals throughout the field. We have moved to an online-only format, which allows us to have more up-to-date information, reach a broader audience, and provide links to resources for professionals and families.

The podcast, A Sense of Texas, continues to be published twice each month. During this year, there were 6,000 total downloads for a total of 39,900 downloads. The podcast has been downloaded in all 50 U.S. States (and D.C.) and in 42 additional countries.

Outreach Program Measures

TSBVI had three performance criteria for 2022-2023 that are tied to measures developed with the Legislative Budget Board and appear in the School Improvement Plan. TSBVI exceeded all three criteria with the following results:



Percent of Outreach customers rating as very satisfactory or outstanding the improvement of their knowledge and skills as a result of the services or products received from TSBVI, 90.16%

Percent of Outreach customers rating as very satisfactory or outstanding the effectiveness of the school consultation or workshop, 91.56%

Percent of Outreach customers agreeing there was a positive change for the student, staff, or family as a result of the school consultation, 97.73%

Outreach Programs Survey Responses From Parents, and Local School Districts

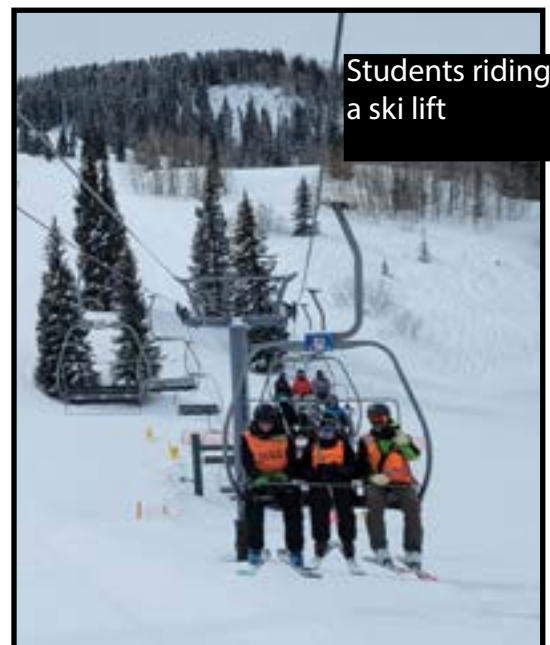
"I thought the staff was very helpful and welcoming. I loved seeing all of the materials that were used that I had not seen before."

Family at the
DBMAT conference



Student dancing
with a dancer in
costume

"So much useful information to a person new to the field of VI. The Outreach specialist was fabulous with her hospitality and information."



Students riding on
a ski lift

"Attending Mentor Center is always a wonderful experience. This is my second time attending and each time I have learned and observed new techniques that I am able to take with me and apply with my own students."

Curriculum Development Department



Angela Wolf, Director

The Curriculum Department at TSBVI serves three major functions.

We develop curriculum and resource publications written by teachers and other certified professionals. These publications are sold worldwide to: certified teachers of students who are visually impaired (TSVI), certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS), classroom teachers, and families delivering instruction to their children.

We provide on-campus and statewide training on our curriculum resources. We support teachers on-campus by identifying, modifying, and aligning curriculum to support successful standards-based instruction for students.

We collect and report student performance data to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) about their annual progress at TSBVI. This tracking of student progress is part of a memorandum of understanding established with the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Publications

The publications we develop focus on the Core Curriculum and the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC). Our ECC catalog includes titles on: independent living, career education, assistive technology, compensatory skills instruction (concept development and braille), orientation and mobility, recreation and leisure, self-determination, sensory efficiency skills, and social interaction skills.

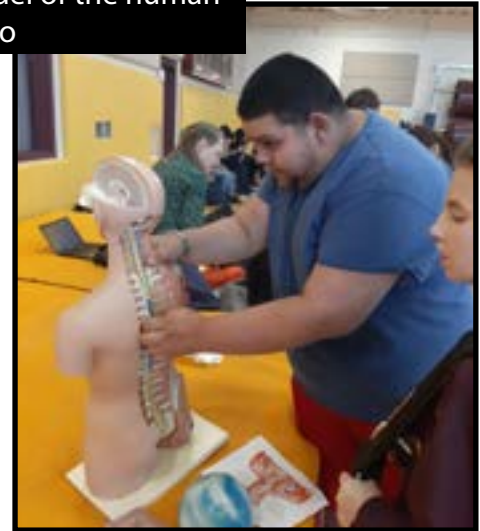
In FY2023, the Curriculum Department had total sales of \$293,211.15. The highest sales were in May 2023 with \$43,758.05. Followed by sales in January (\$41,438.74) and August (\$37,259.61). Essential Tools of the Trade had the highest percentage of sales (14.13%), followed by Essential Tools of the Trade for Teachers of Students Who are Deafblind (13.08%). Our most popular products that were sold (other than the above-mentioned publications) include TAPS, Calendars, and Texas 2-Steps. We released Making Evaluations Meaningful and Essential Tools of the Trade for Teachers of Students Who are Deafblind.

Publications Under Development

The following publications are currently being developed and the anticipated release dates are listed:

- ▶ Revision of Essential Tools of the Trade (Spring 2024)
- ▶ Art for Students Who are Blind or Have Low Vision (Spring 2024)

Student examining a model of the human torso



Curriculum Support (School-wide and State-wide)

The Curriculum Department presented at the Texas Association for Education and Rehabilitation (TAER) annual conference. Additionally, we collaborated with the TSBVI Outreach Department to provide training on the new publication, Essential Tools of the Trade for Teachers of Students Who are Deafblind, at several regional service centers across the state.

The Curriculum Department worked alongside TSBVI Comprehensive Programs to provide instructional support for on-campus teachers, including training on the use of our publications and how to create and adapt other instructional materials for use with students in core content areas.

Performance Indicator Evaluations

The Curriculum Director and Curriculum Lead Teacher continued to evaluate, refine and create the performance indicator evaluation tools that guide IEP development and instruction for TSBVI students. Curriculum staff continued to convert PIs from Word documents to Google Sheets, making the process of collecting progress data more streamlined.

The Curriculum Director submitted the annual report to TEA detailing the student progress as determined by Performance Indicator Evaluations, the engagement of graduates in post-secondary education employment, or productive activities, and student STAAR passing rates compared to other students in Special Education in Texas. In the 2022-2023 school year, TSBVI exceeded all three criteria areas approved by TEA as performance measures.

Family Lynx Parent/Teacher/ Alumni Organization

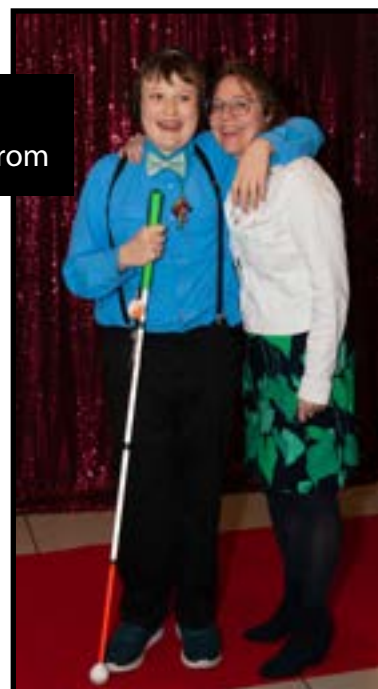
Family Lynx continues to foster meaningful opportunities and resources for the TSBVI community. This year we streamlined our focus so less time is required by leaders and staff. We also implemented changes to make participation easier for current and former families, students and staff.

Family Lynx leadership for 2022-2023 included Family Leaders Barbara Knighton (mother of Joshua) and Amy Potts (mother of Rees); Leader Liaison Katherine Houck, TSBVI social worker; and Staff Advisors Alex Argüello, Edgenie Bellah, Diane Broadway, Emily Coleman, Miles Fain, Daniel Figueiredo, Cristi Fleming, Mark Gronquist, Sara Merritt, Cathy Olsen, Matt Schultz, Dori Senatori and Yolanda Shaw.

Students on the red carpet at prom



Student and mom taking a photo at prom



Family Lynx Highlights

Student and her family on the red carpet



Parent Prom Ops, Family Lynx hosted Red-Carpet Zoomcast for families to watch the glamorous arrival of students to prom with Rec staff providing color commentary. Families able to be in Austin joined the in-person Parent Paparazzi.

Staff Appreciation Week aPAWs, May 2023 – Families submitted over 100 aPAWs as a token of appreciation to school staff. Family Lynx administered this program and printed the certificates which were hand-delivered by EXIT students.

Wildcat Welcome Wagon – Videos of families' TSBVI successes, tips and resources have been shared on a webpage established to encourage prospective and new TSBVI families.

Visit FamilyLynx.org



Lynx leaders celebrating at prom



Information Resources Department

Scott Brackett, Director

It is of the utmost importance to us to create a safe environment for our students to learn digital literacy and technological independence. At TSBVI we are able to create personalized education plans for our students, which will always include the technology that our students will need to flourish in modern society. This will mean learning and mastering braille note takers, refreshable braille displays, screen reader software, magnification software, on top of the skills required to make effective use of internet browsers, office productivity, and communication tools.

In order to create space for students to have access and understand their technology, we must also take security very seriously. Through a culture of continuous improvement, investment in skills development, and deployment of content filtering and other security measures, our IT professionals work to ensure that your child's devices and data are secure.

We find it incredibly rewarding to ensure that our students, teachers and parents have the tools and training needed to give our students access to their best possible future.

Campus Security Report (Required by TEA)

There were no violent or criminal offenses resulting in disciplinary action in the 2022-2023 school year.

Executive Management Team

Emily Coleman	Superintendent
Miles Fain	Principal of Comprehensive Programs
Sara Merritt	Principal of Short-Term Programs
Kate Borg	Director of Outreach Programs
Cheryl Williams	Director of Human Resources
Scott Brackett	Director of Information Resources
Ann Du	Chief Financial Officer
Susan Houghtling	Planning and Evaluation Coordinator
Matt Schultz	Residential Director

Thank you to the many donors and volunteers that help make our school such a wonderful place!

Student at graduation in a maroon cap and gown





Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Established in 1856

WWW.TSBVI.EDU

