

2023 - 2024 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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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Empowering Students to Take Ownership of their Dreams

Our vision is that all Texas students who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision will be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Productive can mean the actual creation of goods, or it can mean the act of engaging in production. It can also mean achievement, which is the vision we apply to our students. Achievement in career, educational, and personal goals related to life happiness that will result in fulfillment.

You'll notice in our vision we don't say staff will support, inspire, facilitate, or promote the fulfillment of students. This perspective would put the onus on staff and would dictate little to no action on the part of our students. Instead, we believe our students will be empowered to achieve fulfillment, giving them the action verb. This requires student ownership of their destinies and dreams, as we know they won't be at TSBVI forever.

TSBVI empowers the 11,000 students identified across Texas as blind, deafblind, or having low vision through four main programs. Our Curriculum Department creates publications dispersed throughout the state and beyond. Our Outreach Program is a resource for every student, family, or professional for training, consultation, and expertise. Our Short-Term and Summer Program offers events targeting opportunities for learning and growth. Finally, our Comprehensive Program is our full-time campus offering for students with the most significant educational needs.

Through each of these programs and for every one of the 11,000 students, we strive for empowerment. We want our students to find their voice, have the skills to communicate their needs and wants, and gain the knowledge to pursue their own destiny, whatever that may be. Within this annual report, you'll see the myriad of opportunities afforded students in Texas and the exceptional staff at TSBVI who pull it all together.

We are a community of knowledgeable dreamers and believers, who know that our students can reach whatever goals they set for themselves. Along with the support of our stakeholders, community, and families, the vision of TSBVI will ring true. We will provide opportunities for success, and our students will be the ones making it happen.

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, deafblind or have low vision 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

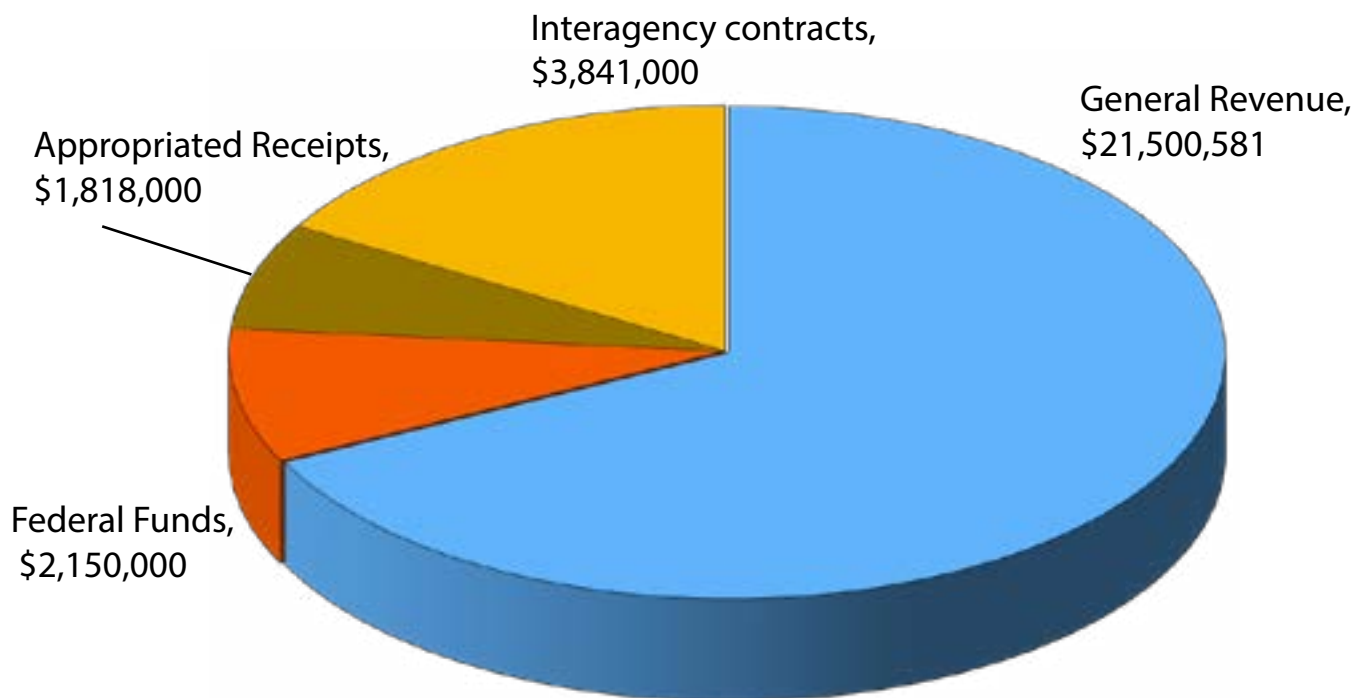
Ann Du
Chief Financial Officer

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

Appropriations categories include:

- ▶ General revenue, \$21,500,581
- ▶ Federal funds, \$2,150,000
- ▶ Appropriated receipts, \$1,818,000
- ▶ Interagency contracts, \$3,841,000

Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriated Funds



Fiscal Year 2024 Total Funding
\$29,309,581

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

As a state agency TSBVI strives to meet performance measures set by both the Texas Education Agency (TEA) (three performance measures) and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) (the three TEA measures plus an additional two performance measures). TSBVI exceeded two of the three performance measures set by TEA:

1. Percent 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.
TEA performance measure 85%; LBB performance measure– 80%.
 - ▶ TSBVI students achieved 81.51% % in 2023-24 school year.
2. 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. TEA uses data from the 2022-23 school year.
 - ▶ TSBVI's passing rate was 54%, compared to 44% for the other school districts in Texas.
 - ▶ For this measure the LBB uses data from the 2023-24 school year. TSBVI's passing rate was 38% and the state of Texas' passing rate was 42%.

Accreditation and Legislative Budget Board Standards

3. Percent of graduated students from the past five years 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).

TEA criteria - 76% for 2023 survey; LBB criteria – 80% for 2024 survey.

► 76.47% of TSBVI graduates were engaged in productive activities in the summer 2023 survey. TSBVI exceeded TEA's performance criteria.

► 83.33% of TSBVI graduates were engaged in productive activities in the summer 2024 survey. TSBVI exceeded the LBB's performance criteria.

4. 60% of statewide assessment tests will be passed.

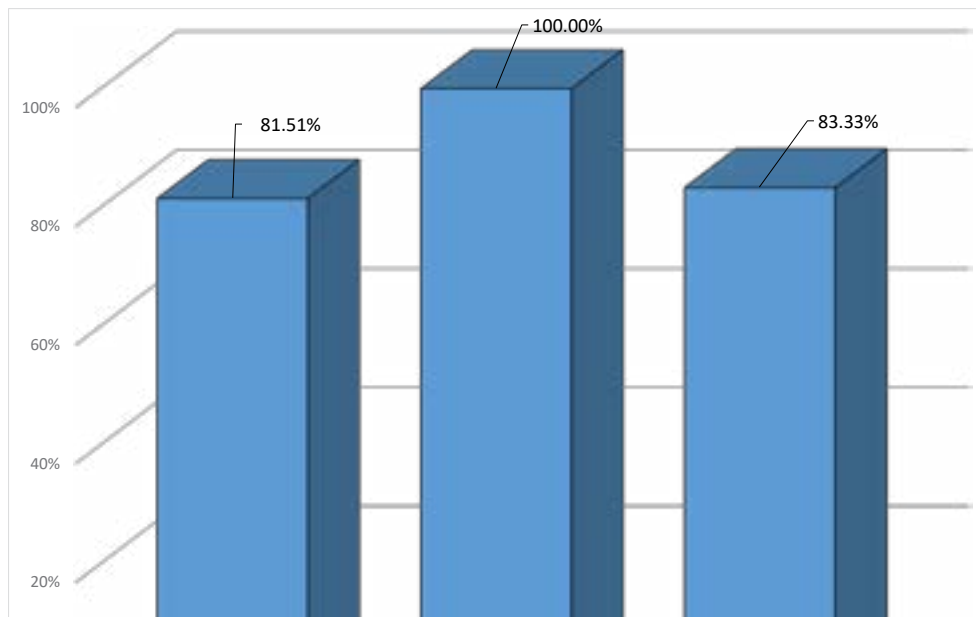
► TSBVI students achieved a 60.40% passing rate, exceeding criteria set with the LBB.

5. 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 2024 survey. TSBVI met the LBB's criteria.

In total, TSBVI met or exceeded four of the five performance measures set with the Legislative Budget Board.

Comprehensive Programs Measures



Percent of students achieving moderate to substantial progress on every area of the Core and Expanded Core Curriculum
81.51%

Percent of major instructional areas in which students' progress was rated as satisfactory or above by at least 90% of local school districts, parents, and students,
100%

Percent of graduates from the past 5 years engaged in productive activities, 83.33%

Achievements and Recognition

The following staff members were recognized for their outstanding work during the 2023-24 school year:

- ▶ Outstanding Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments: Patrick Healy
- ▶ Outstanding Teacher of Students with Visual and Multiple Impairments: Eva Van Houten
- ▶ Outstanding Residential Staff Member: Bridgette Wolfe
- ▶ Outstanding Paraprofessional: Nelda Camarillo
- ▶ Outstanding Related Service Provider: Maribeth Betton

Student award winner with his parents



- ▶ Teacher Dori Senatori received the 2024 National Federation of the Blind Teacher of the Year Award.

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 audiobook for their commute.

- ▶ The Recording Studio/Lab

Our computer lab has been fully transformed into an accessible podcasting studio. This year, we are offering Audio/Visual Levels 1 and 2, where students engage in various projects such as writing and recording personal stories, creating works of fiction, and designing sound effects. They have also recorded and edited

commercials for campus events, utilizing industry-standard software for their editing. Additionally, the class has created a YouTube channel, which is not yet live but already hosts their uploaded content, set to launch soon. Students are also involved in setting up PA systems for campus events, including Coffee House, the Farmer's Market, and the first-ever Book Tasting in the LRC.

Student exploring a new piece of musical equipment for the Semi-Modulars student band



Activities and Resources

► Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

This year we grouped our teachers and related service staff members into twelve 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 also met once a semester to support each other and collaborate as leads.

► 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.

► Assisted Technology-focused Study Groups

This year our AT teachers led monthly study groups that were centered on some of our essential AT areas: JAWS, VoiceOver, and Braillenotes/Braille Displays, and Makerspace (Laser-cutting and 3D printing). These study groups were comprised of teachers and TAs who met once a month to improve their AT skills and in turn better support our students in improving their own tech skills.



► 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 Thursday each week and a new Elementary Book Club meets on Tuesdays. Our cafeteria staff pack sack lunches that students eat in the library while we all read, discuss and enjoy books.

Activities and Resources Continued

► 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.

► Launch of New Makerspace

The Makerspace officially opened last January after completing final flooring renovations, offering an expanded range of tools and learning opportunities for students and teachers alike. A second laser cutter has been installed in the new Makerspace, along with five 3D printers, a braille embosser, a computer workstation equipped with three desktop computers, a laptop, and a mini photo booth. Throughout the year,

the space has seen steady use: teachers scheduled recurring and single-session lessons, while the short term programs (STP) summer workshops introduced STP students to the use of 3D printers and laser cutters. Students are introduced to practical skills like disassembling and reassembling doorknobs and how to unclog a toilet, common household issues everyone needs to learn. During the academic year, students explored a variety of hands-on projects, including taking apart and reassembling door knob puzzles, learning about circuits and sound through sound-producing magnetic circuit modules, and building with various hand tools and kits available in the space. Teachers engaged in professional development sessions to learn about the makerspace tools, including training on the laser cutter and 3D printers, and many are now incorporating these tools into their classroom activities. With ongoing training and incentives, teacher engagement with the Makerspace continues to grow. As more educators and their students engage with the space, it continues to evolve thanks to the expertise of TSBVI staff and valuable feedback from students and staff alike.

"Incredible school, top notch staff, incredible love and care for students, we could not be more satisfied."



Staff walks with student after a cheer performance at a pep rally

Activities and Resources Continued

► Additional Activities in the LRC

Each week, a variety of classes visit the library to read books, participate in literacy activities, and celebrate special book-themed events like the Book Tasting event. We have hosted several initiatives, including: a Voter Registration Drive, a visit from Mentor Center TVI guests, and a Talking Book Program Registration Fair. The LRC staff continues to provide braille, tactile graphics, large print, large format, and 3D materials for the entire campus.

We also collaborate with universities across Texas, including UT, and institutions nationwide to develop best practices for designing accessible products for people with print disabilities. Current projects include two UT design teams: one focused on an Orientation and Mobility solution, and the other on improving print accessibility.

Additionally, we are partnering with the University of North Dakota Medical School on 3D accessibility. These collaborations offer our students valuable opportunities to participate in the design and iteration process sharing their experiences of what 'really' works and their skills.



Student petting a black fluffy dog

Students participating in an art show



Student cutting a red ribbon

Career Education

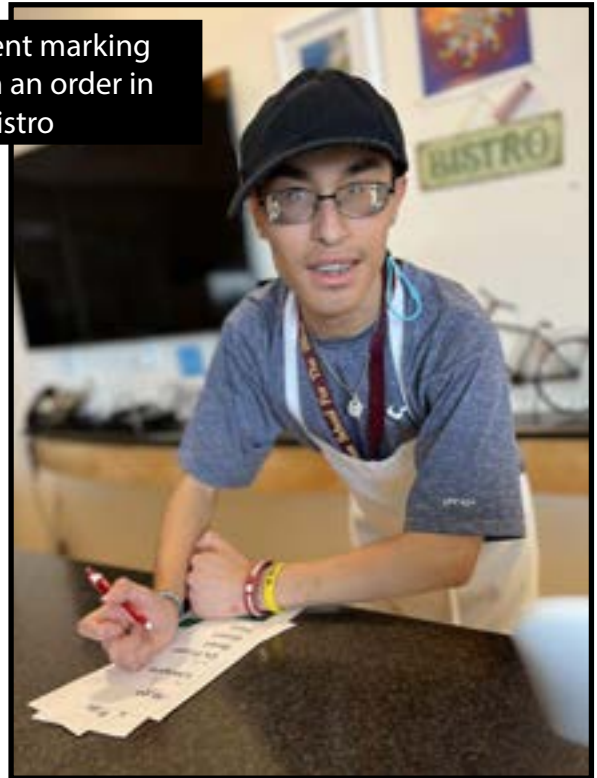
We continued to implement our five-step continuum of Career Education courses for students in Middle School, High School, and EXIT. These courses provide content and experiential learning opportunities that are designed to help students and their families narrow down goals for future employment. Courses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

- ▶ General Employability
- ▶ Methodology for Academic and Personal Success (MAPS)
- ▶ Work Exploration
- ▶ Student to Industry Connection
- ▶ Career Prep 1

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
- ▶ Career Prep 1
- ▶ Professional Communications
- ▶ Audio/ Video Production Level 1 and 2

Student marking down an order in the bistro



Staff serving drinks at Fiesta event



Additionally, we offered 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.
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Clint Small Middle School
- ▶ Gethsemane Lutheran Child Development Center
- ▶ Thinkery
- ▶ Texas Parks and Wildlife
- ▶ The Villages Retirement and Nursing Home
- ▶ Crossfit Central
- ▶ Capital Area Foodbank
- ▶ Yarbrough Public Library



Student holding a bowl of grilled vegetables

▶ Lighthouse for the Blind

The Austin Lighthouse hosted 10 student interns. We partnered with Texas School for the Deaf in this endeavor. Two students from TSD who are DeafBlind participated. In this student Work Training experience, students received new employee orientation, information on benefits and payroll processes, on the job training in the warehouse, skin care production, 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.



Student holding a furry light brown dog

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. During the 2023-2024 school year, we expanded the programming to include career exploration activities for younger students.

► 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 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.

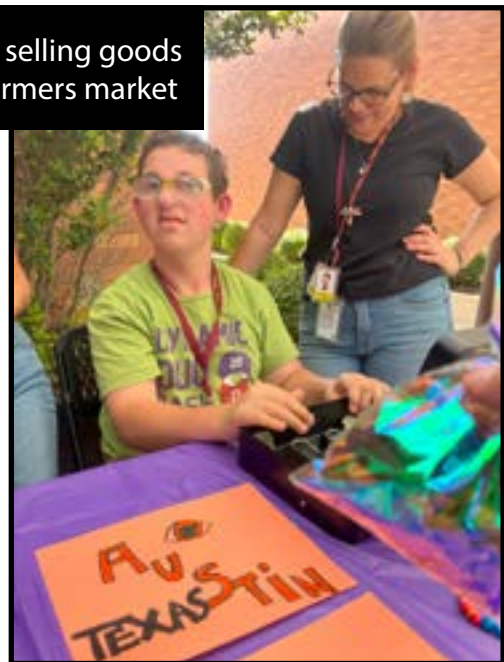
► TSBVI Farmer’s Market

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 holding a banjo chatting with his teacher



Student selling goods at the farmers market



Fine Arts Activities

Our Fine Arts program provides TSBVI students with experiences that promote lifelong learning and love of the arts.

Music Teacher, Jeremy Coleman orchestrated an inspiring year of musical achievements, celebrating the 13th year of our classical guitar program and guiding students through multiple performances. Under his direction, the choir and jazz ensembles came together as a jazz combo, performing at White Cane Day, Family Day, and the Holiday and End-of-the-Year Big Show concerts. The jazz and Mariachi proudly represented TSBVI at the South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) in Mississippi in January.

Music Teacher, Eva Van Houten teaches the Suzuki strings group and Mariachi ensemble. The Mariachi ensemble performed at the Big Show, the TSBVI Latin American Cultural event Fiesta, and at Central Market.

Ms. Van Houten collaborated with Dr. Laurie Scott from UT Austin to write a grant proposal for the Moritz Center for Society Development Good Neighbors program. The grant proposal was successfully accepted and will be implemented in the 2024-25 school year. The grant project is titled Inclusive String Education: UT String Project Community Outreach Project and involves using grant funds to purchase instruments and bring

string project instructors to teach students at TSBVI.

A TSBVI music program student successfully completed an audition to perform the National Anthem for the Round Rock Express, a local minor league baseball team.

Our theater department, directed by Mr. Tony Salinas, collaborated with the choir and put on a production of "Annie Jr.". Middle and high school students rehearsed for months and performed three shows that were open to the public.



Two student actors in Annie Jr.

Art Teacher, Gretchen Bettes held the 9th annual Family Day art shows in November where her fine arts students showcased their artwork in ceramics, fiber arts/weaving, and multi-media art in the fine arts gallery on campus.

Art Students had a spectacular art show in collaboration with the

artists of Almost Real Things (ART) Art Gallery. The event called "Touch the Art" provided an accessible art show for the local community.

Art Teacher, Plumeria Alexander collaborated with teaching artists Kat Heitman and Gretchen Bettes to create a public art installation celebrating the art of Yayoi Kusama on Family Day. Families, students and staff developed this into a beautiful community artwork by adding textured "dots" made from many art mediums to it.

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:

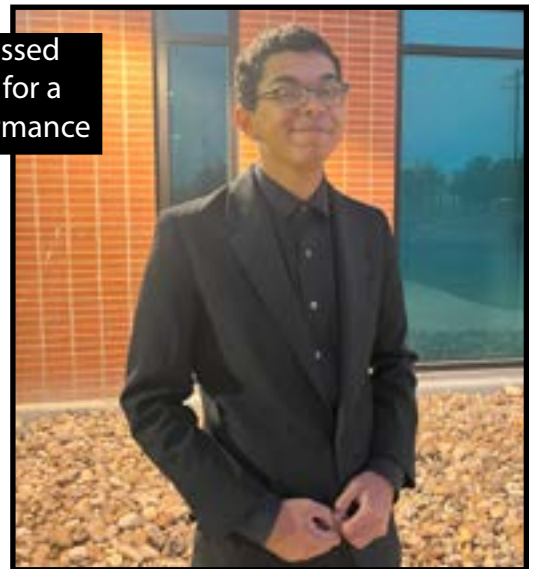
yoga
dance
art on the dorm
choir
coding
Music Mania
music recording
scrapbooking
cooking & baking

walking & running on campus
jewelry making
gardening
book club
quiz night
YMCA
bowling
music lessons
Live local music on campus

rock wall climbing
beading
weaving
macramé
puzzles
clay modeling
Tandem bicycle rides
Spanish club
Student Council

- ▶ EXIT Variety Show at TSBVI
- ▶ Duo Dash 1K held with the Girls School of Austin
- ▶ Jingle Bell Run/Walk
Holiday themed schoolwide fitness event
- ▶ Delta Gamma Party! At the Delta Gamma house

Student dressed in black tux for a choir performance



Student dressed like a bus getting candy from a Delta Gamma



- ▶ Valentine's Dance at the Recreation room
- ▶ Trick or Trunk with the UT Austin Delta Gamma Sorority, and Halloween Party.
- ▶ Steel Drum Band Concert

Athletics

- Sports Extravaganza competition in Dallas

Advanced boys team, Chris Z., AJon and Jacob B. took 1st place. Intermediate boys team, Christian S., Drake G. and Oscar G., also took 1st place. Girls' team, Jessica B., Jazmine K., Heather D, and Maiela S., took 2nd place in a hard-fought battle against Oklahoma. All students participated in Track and Field events on Saturday and came home with many medals and ribbons.

- National Goalball Championships. TSBVI teams showcased their remarkable skills in an event hosted at TSBVI

- TSBVI players selected for All-American Goalball Team!

Darrius M.

Chris Z.

- UIL Wrestling
Varsity Wrestling at LASA HS
Varsity Wrestling at McCallum HS

- South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB)
Wrestling, cheerleading, and performing arts (in Mississippi) Middle and High School students.

- TSBVI won MOST SPIRITED school during the competition!
- Mascot Juliana S. won 1st Place!
- *Turn Up* Cheer routine by Jasmine K. 3rd Place
- Wrestlers Alex Q. and Ajon D., 2nd Place in their weight classes
- Excellent performances by the Mariachi Band, Guitarist, and TSBVI Choir!

- 5A Varsity District Wrestling at the Austin ISD Delco Center.

- SCASB Track & Field Competition (Louisiana)

TSBVI Track Team:

-2nd Place Boys and Girls!

-Darrius M. won the MVP Award!



Three students standing on the podium wearing medals

Wildcat Goalball Teams:

TSBVI Girls' Team:

Heather D.
Jazmine K.
Sophia P.

TSBVI Boys Team:

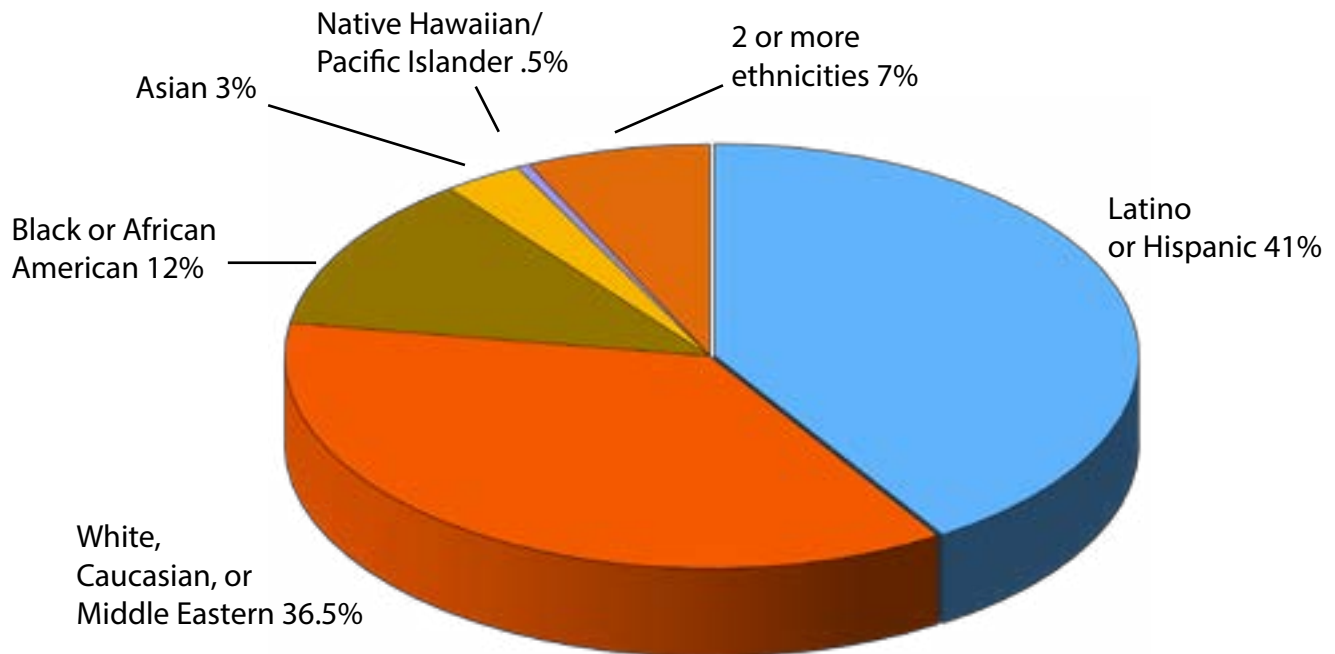
Ajon D.
Darrius M.
Javier S.
Chris Z.
Drake G.

Enrollment Statistics 2023-2024

145 students representing 78 local school districts throughout Texas were enrolled in Comprehensive Programs.

Comprehensive Programs	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Elementary Program	17	13	13	12	13
Secondary Program	122	119	121	120	124
Post-Secondary Program	6	0	2	8	8
Total	145	132	136	140	145

Ethnicity of Students in Comprehensive Programs



► Wildcat Jump for Heart Challenge fitness event to encourage movement and a healthy heart

► Students vs Staff Goalball Game!

Student throwing a goalball



STUDENT DISCIPLINE REPORT RELATED TO VIOLENT OR CRIMINAL INCIDENTS

There were no violent or criminal incidents resulting in student disciplinary action in the 2023-2024 school year.

Students dress like princesses and their teacher dresses up like a witch for Halloween



Student playing a violin during a school event

► Starry Nights prom at the Red Oak Ballroom .

“My child has made so much progress at TSBVI! Thanks for all you guys do!!”

► The Semi-Modulars perform at Club Dada

► Talent Show at the Recreation Building



Students dressed up for the prom



Student tries to hit a colorful pinata for fiesta

“Our child has benefited immensely from the excellent skill, knowledge, and dedication of the teaching staff.”

Short-Term Programs

Dr. Eden Hagelman, 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 259 students from across the state
- ▶ 97% percent of students demonstrated progress on goals/objectives
- ▶ Served students from 18 of 20 educational regions
- ▶ Offered two new classes: High School Art for .5 credit over the summer, HS Independence Weekend: In the Heart of Texas
- ▶ Presented at Mentor Center and TAER

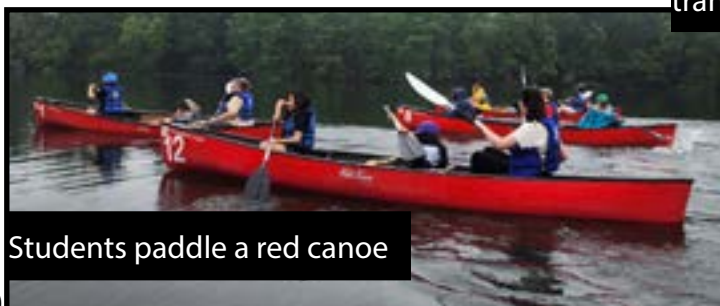


Student holding an animal skull

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

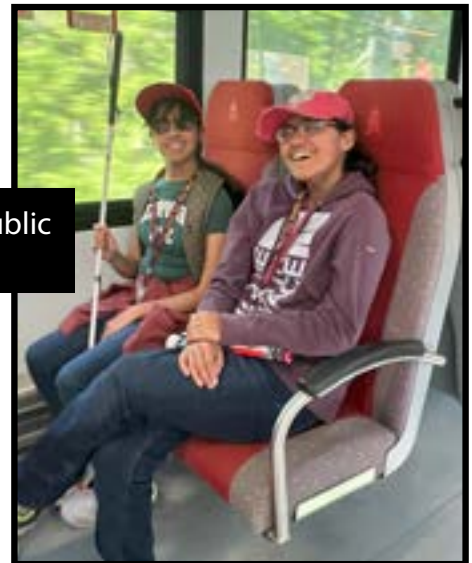
During the school year, the STP team works diligently to provide a diverse selection of courses to meet the many needs of students at various grade levels and skill levels.

1. Individualized Instruction (Content determined by local district)
2. Algebra I (SBOE Credit)
3. HS Independence Weekend: How to Algebra I
4. Elem. Ind. Weekend: Fun with Art, Craft, & Fine Motor (gr. 3-5)
5. Junior Access to Academic Skills- Fall (gr. 6-8)
6. Elementary Series Part A (gr. 2-5)
7. In Your Element Part 1 (Access to Chemistry) (gr. 9-12)
8. Elementary Series Part B (Prerequisites: Parts A)
9. High School Access to Academic Skills- Fall (gr. 9-12)
10. JAWS for Students and Teachers (gr. 5-9)
11. Elementary Series Part C (Prerequisites: Parts A and B)
12. Cooking Around the World (gr. 6-8)
13. Wellness Weekend (gr. 9-12)
14. HS Independence Weekend: Iron Chef
15. High School Access to Academic Skills- Spring (gr. 9-12)
16. Game of Life for Students and Families (gr. 6-9)
17. Elementary Access to Academic Skills- Spring (gr. 3-5)
18. Magical World of STEAM
19. Junior Access to Academic Skills- Spring (gr. 6-8)
20. In the Driver's Seat (gr. 9-12)
21. HS Independence Weekend: Outdoor Challenge (gr. 9-12)
22. City Travel for COMS and Their Students (gr. 7-12)
23. In Your Element Part 2 (Access to Chemistry) (gr. 9-12)
24. Algebra I: Exponential, Quadratic, & Radical Functions (gr. 8-12)
25. Health and Well-Being (gr. 5-7)
26. Elem. Independence Weekend: Outdoor Exploration (gr. 3-5)
27. HS Independence Weekend: In the Heart of Texas



Students paddle a red canoe

Students riding public transportation

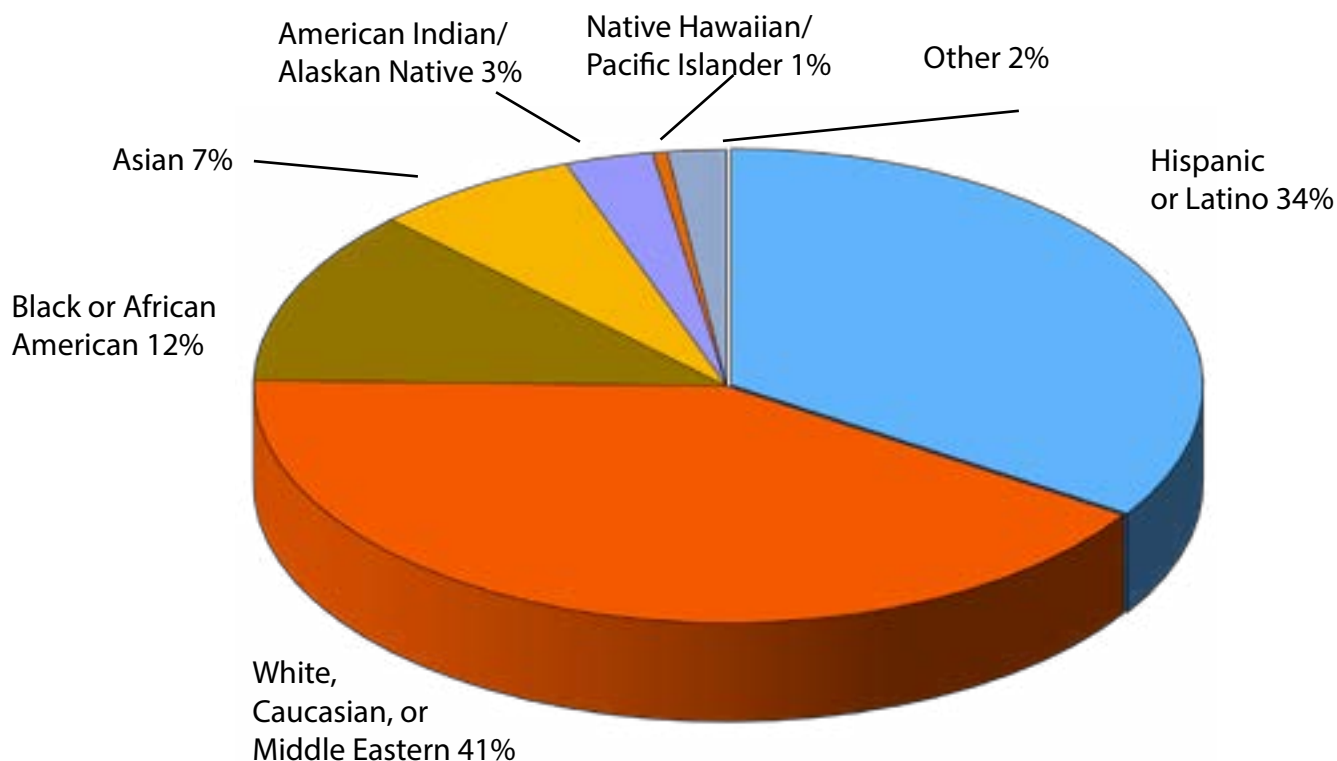


Short-Term Programs Enrollment Statistics (School Year)

STP served 259 students, representing 18 Education Service Centers and 89 local school districts from across the state.

Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Students	205	366	311	279	259

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



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



Four students sitting on a large bolder with staff standing behind

"The STP class helped my son continue to progress in his skills and goals of being more independent."

Students practice using technology for distance viewing



"Everyone at TSBVI is kind and engaging. The TSBVI staff were highly knowledgeable and very professional during our experience."

Short-Term Programs Performance Measures 2023-2024

TSBVI had three performance criteria for 2023-2024 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:

- Goal: That 88% of students attending Short-Term Programs will demonstrate progress as measured by pre- and post-assessment – **TSBVI achieved 95.74%**
- Goal: That 90% of responding school districts, parents and students will rate students' experiences in Short-Term Programs as very satisfactory or outstanding – **TSBVI achieved 94.26%**
- Goal: That 90% of responding local school districts and parents will rate student' learning experiences in summer programs as very satisfactory or outstanding – **TSBVI achieved 98.08%**



Four students waiting at the bus stop

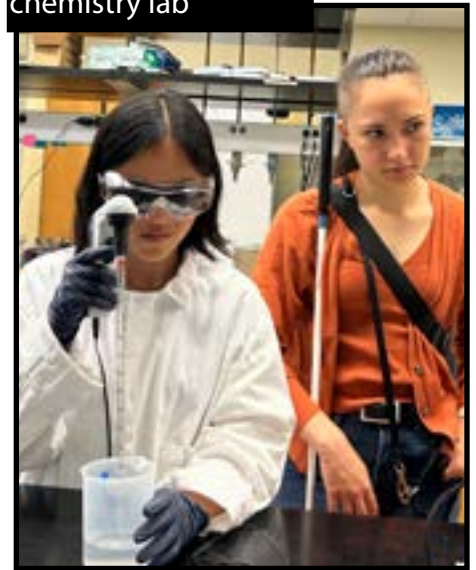
"I just want to thank every staff member of TSBVI for the love and support given to my son."

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 using a measuring cup in a chemistry lab



Short-Term Programs Achievements (Summer)

Served 205 students

Served students from 18 of 20 educational regions

98.08% of responding school districts and parents rated their experience in summer programs as very satisfactory or outstanding.

"I rate Short-Term Programs 10 out of 10. Amazing experience for my child."

Student pouring a liquid using a fill sensor

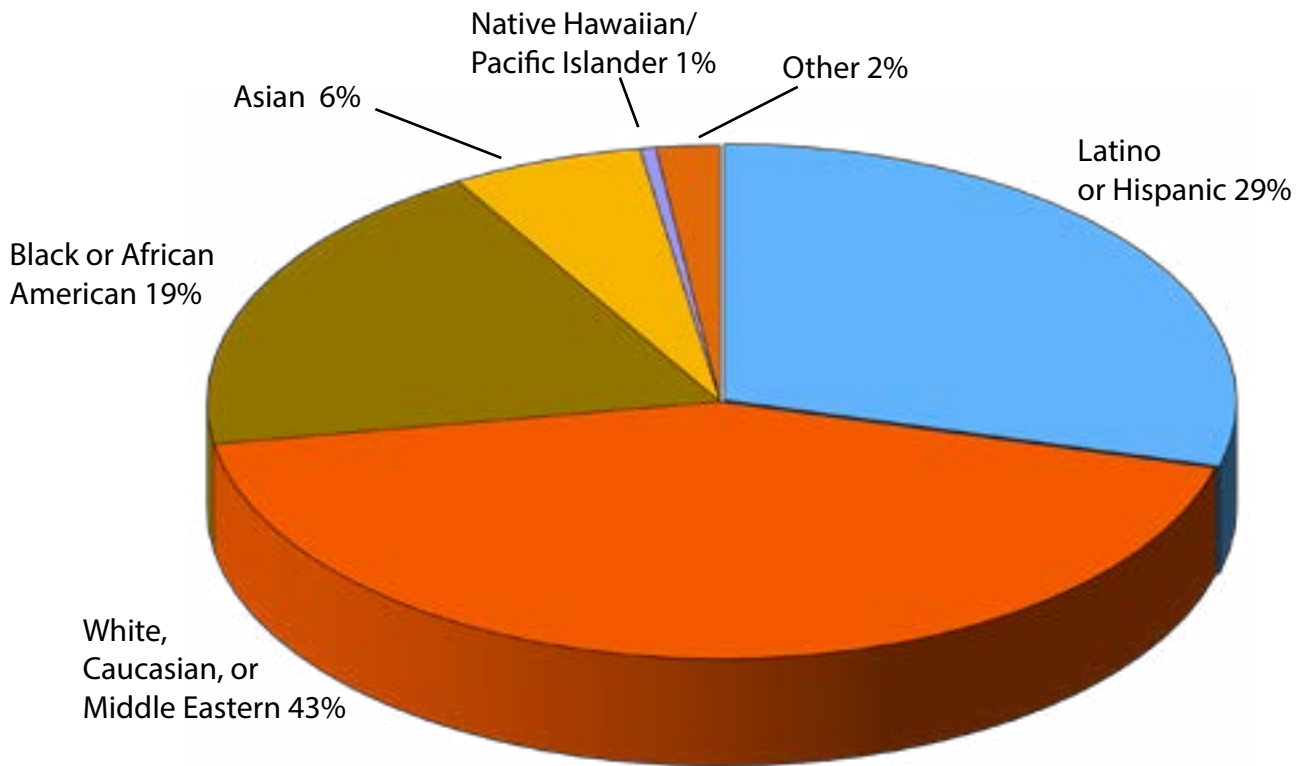


Enrollment Statistics (Summer)

205 students attended, representing 18 of the 20 Education Service Center regions and 118 local school districts throughout Texas.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Students	108	169	220	215	205

Ethnicity of Students in Short-Term Programs (Summer)



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



"Everyone was so wonderful. We were nervous and they helped us and our child. She came home with lots of new facts and had learned some new social skills as well."

Students learning how to use lab equipment

"This was the first time our daughter has attended any summer program and the family and I were so impressed with the amount of planning and organization went into it."



Students sitting around a camp fire



Teacher assisting a student onto a bus

"Staff were so student and family oriented. Always making sure we were comfortable leaving our child in their supervision."

"Amazing program and we look forward to continued participation!"



Student writing on an orange tablet

Outreach Programs

Erica Cairns, Director

Outreach Programs provide statewide training and resources for children and students who are blind, low vision, or deafblind from birth through their transition from school. Our focus is to support students within their home communities by providing specialized services such as consultations, coaching, and trainings, both in-person and virtually. Due to the unique and diverse needs of our children and young adults who are blind, low vision, or deafblind, Outreach Programs prioritizes collaboration with Education Service Centers (ESCs), state agencies, national agencies, and family associations to ensure quality programming for our students. Together, we provide a strong statewide system of support for educational programs across Texas at little to no charge to local education agencies or families.



Students practice using a monocular

Services, Supports, and Resources Include:

- ▶ Individualized consultation and coaching for educational teams, families, and other related agencies or community organizations
- ▶ Resources on visual impairments and deafblind instructional strategies
- ▶ Training for families, professionals, and paraprofessionals through face-to-face and virtual workshops and conferences around the state
- ▶ Texas SenseAbilities, an online magazine, produced with Health and Human Services' Blind Children's Program and Texas Workforce Commission, available in English and Spanish
- ▶ A Sense of Texas podcast, published monthly
- ▶ The Annual Registration of Students with Visual Impairments and the Texas Deafblind Child Count conducted for the Texas Education Agency
- ▶ Ordering and distribution of materials from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) as part of the federal quota fund program
- ▶ Short-term loans of assistive technology
- ▶ Coordinating and providing statewide mentoring services for teachers in their first years of service

Consultation and Training

Families and educational professionals across Texas rely on Outreach Programs to enhance their knowledge and skills related to the education of students who are blind, low vision, or deafblind. Outreach staff completed 78 student/school consultations across 59 school districts in each of the regional ESCs in Texas. These visits have shown measurable success: 94.12% of respondents reported a positive change for the student, staff or family as a result of school consultations with Outreach staff.

Outreach hosted, presented at, or facilitated 220 conferences and/or workshop sessions at local districts, regional service centers, and statewide and national venues, including via distance technologies, for 7,101 participants. Of those who completed an online evaluation, 93.51% rated the improvement of their knowledge and skills as very satisfactory or outstanding due to the training provided by the Outreach program. Requests for workshops and training continue to come from state and national partners as well as international associations.

Several statewide conferences and trainings were sponsored directly by TSBVI Outreach, including:

- ▶ Texas Focus
- ▶ Intervener Training
- ▶ Intervener Train the Trainers
- ▶ Braille "Boot Camp"
- ▶ Low Vision on the Road
- ▶ In the Driver's Seat
- ▶ The Southwest Orientation and Mobility Association Conference (SWOMA)
- ▶ Active Learning
- ▶ Coffee Hours and Tech Tea Time
- ▶ Statewide Mentor Program and Mentor Center

Topics covered include:

- ▶ Braille literacy and tactile graphics
- ▶ Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)
- ▶ Low vision devices and strategies for use
- ▶ Calendars and routines
- ▶ Tactile language development
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Behavior
- ▶ Orientation and mobility strategies



Students sitting in a circle learning about the eye

Achievements

SWOMA 2023 and Texas Focus 2024 were held virtually with participants joining remotely from Texas, across the U.S, and internationally from countries including Canada, Sweden, Brazil, Ireland, Portugal, Ecuador, and Australia.

Conference	Total Attendees	Professionals	Paraprofessionals and Students	Family Members
SWOMA	384	346	31	7
Texas Focus	297	253	29	15

► Texas Deafblind Project

The federal Texas Deafblind Project grant, which runs from 2023-2028, funds several projects and activities to ensure quality education for students who are deafblind throughout the state of Texas.

Members of the Deafblind team served on a committee that drafted state certification standards for teachers of students who are deafblind, which were approved by SBEC and were subsequently adopted by SBOE. Team members, in collaboration with the TEA, developed test items for the teachers of students who are deafblind state certification and licensing exam, which is anticipated to be available in September 2025.



Three students reading about the eye

The Project also supported the third 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. Feedback from family stakeholders is taken into account when planning all family engagement events and activities. In February 2024, a Family Focus Group was held to gather input and guide the planning process.

Our Family Engagement and Transition consultants provide a monthly opportunity for families to come together in a supportive, dedicated space called Family Recharge Zone (FRZ). This safe environment is designed exclusively for families to connect and recharge.



Young student using a magnifying glass to look at his fellow student

► 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, 40 new VI professionals were employed in Texas. Texas universities enrolled 107 new students into professional development coursework. During the 2023-2024 school year, 72 new TVIs and COMS received mentoring. There are a total of 380 trained mentors throughout Texas (Teachers for Students with Vision Impairment and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists).

Student learning about the retina



Statewide Collaboration and Networks:
Outreach staff actively promote, encourage, and value 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
 - ◊ Parent to Parent
 - ◊ Texas Hands and Voices
 - ◊ Deafblind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT)
 - ◊ Texas Chargers
6. The Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans
7. The Texas Action Committee for the Education of Students with Visual Impairments

"The conference overall was amazing! All of the sessions were so good and applicable. And I loved the final session of summing everything up and pondering the takeaways."

Two teachers receiving Intervenor training



Online and Distance Initiatives

The use of remote training tools supports access to quality training which results in wider dissemination of training materials. 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, publications that support deafblind strategies, 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.

Teachers from across the state learning at a workshop



Outreach Program Measures

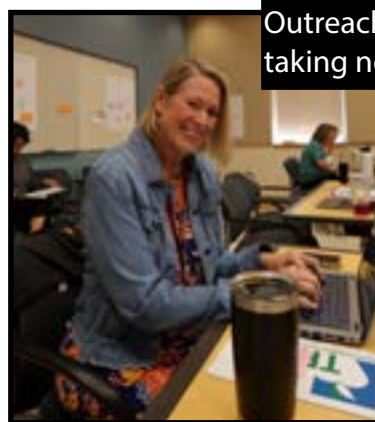
TSBVI had three performance criteria for 2023-2024 that are tied to measures developed with the Legislative Budget Board. TSBVI exceeded all three criteria with the following results:

85% of Outreach customers will rate as very satisfactory or outstanding the improvement in their knowledge and skills as a result of the services or products received from TSBVI – TSBVI achieved 89.92%

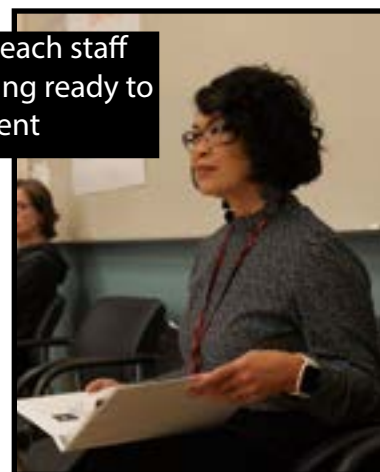
85% of Outreach customers will rate as very satisfactory or outstanding the effectiveness of consultations or workshops – TSBVI achieved 91.92%

90% of Outreach customers will agree there was a positive change for the student, staff, or family as a result of school consultations – TSBVI achieved 100%.

Outreach staff taking notes



Outreach staff getting ready to present



Outreach Programs Survey Responses From Parents, and Local School Districts

"A great conference! Full of information, knowledgeable professionals, and easy to understand delivery."

Group picture at the DBMAT conference



Educators from Japan visit the Outreach staff

"I am so excited to use what I learned with my students! So many insights into how the brain processes sensory information and why it makes our students need different approaches to behavior."

"Thank you for sharing so much wonderful information. I will definitely want to join in for more conferences. "



Outreach staff hosting a training

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.



Three members of the curriculum staff behind a table full of books

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 FY2024, the Curriculum Department had total sales of \$220,987.03. The highest sales were in August 2024 with \$39,519.08.

Followed by sales in January 2024 and October 2023. The first edition of Essential Tools of the Trade (ETT) had the highest percentage of sales (15.64%), followed closely by the second edition of Essential Tools of the Trade [published in June 2024] at 15.29%. Our most popular products that were sold (other than the above-mentioned publications) include Essential Tools of the Trade for Teachers of Students who are Deafblind, Calendars, EVALS, and Making Evaluation Meaningful.

New Publications and Publications Under Development

The Following publications were produced in FY2024:

- ▶ Essential Tools of the Trade, Second Edition: A Guide for Conducting Functional Vision, Non-Visual Skills, Learning Media, And Expanded Core Curriculum Evaluations
- ▶ Artful Instruction: Making Art Accessible for Individuals Who are Blind or Have Low Vision



Artful Instructions cover with colorful and fluff wool

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

- ▶ Revision of Essential Tools of the Trade for Teachers of Students Who are Deafblind (June 2025)
- ▶ The Sciences of Literacy: What Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility Specialists Need to Know (June 2025)
- ▶ Essential Tools of the Trade for Orientation and Mobility Specialists (December 2025)
- ▶ Revision of Calendars (August 2026)

Curriculum Support (School-wide and State-wide)

The Curriculum Department presented at the Association for Education and Rehabilitation (AER) biannual conference in North Carolina on the Essential Tools of the Trade for Teachers of Students Who are Deafblind and on topics related to the science of literacy. Additionally, we collaborated with the TSBVI Outreach Department to provide information on the new publication, Essential Tools of the Trade, Second Edition at a virtual Coffee Hour.

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 make 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 2023-2024 school year, TSBVI met two out of three criteria areas approved by TEA as performance measures.

Family Lynx Parent/Teacher/ Alumni Organization

Family Lynx fosters meaningful opportunities and resources for the TSBVI school community. Highlights of the 2023-24 school year included:

- ▶ Registration Day, August 13 - We welcomed new and returning families, handed out some great swag bags and shared information about the Remind app and tips for coping with homesickness.
- ▶ Family Lynx table at White Cane Day, October 18 - We made some great connections with people in the community, welcomed new and returning families, held a campus tour for alumni and connected with current students and families.
- ▶ Family Day Dinner & Karaoke, November 11 – After a busy day of activities on campus, families enjoyed dinner in the cafeteria served by TSBVI staff. Students and their siblings provided the entertainment.
- ▶ Spring Transition Meeting, February 13 – The group was welcomed to Becka's House, A Neighborhood Companion Care Home, for a tour with TSBVI alumni Becka Budahelyi, her family and housemates.

Student and staff at the Lynx welcome table



Lynx leaders celebrating at prom



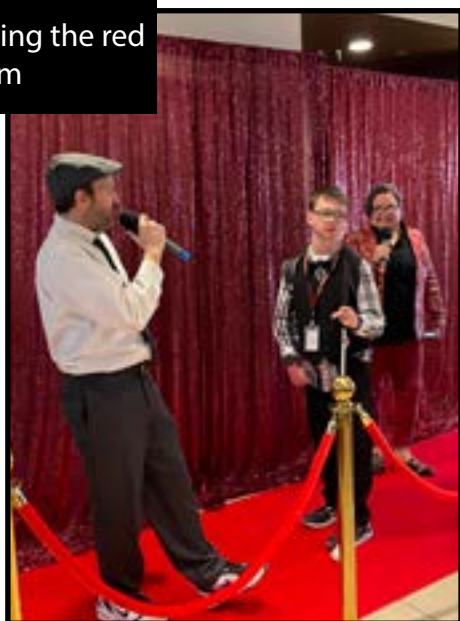
Visit FamilyLynx.org

Family Lynx Highlights

Student giving mom a high five for a job well done



Student walking the red carpet at prom



► Parent Prom Ops, March 27 – Family Lynx hosted a Red-Carpet Zoomcast for families to watch the glamorous arrival of students to prom with Rec staff providing colorful commentary. Families able to be in Austin joined the in-person Parent Paparazzi and socialized with other families.

► Staff appreciation week, May 6-10 - We sent out aPaws requests to families to make it easy for them to show the staff their appreciation. Students delivered aPaws to staff. We hung a banner in the quad to show staff some Lynx love.

► Wildcat Welcome Wagon – Videos of families sharing their TSBVI successes to encourage prospective and new TSBVI families. This year videos in Spanish have been added by parents . Visit and share: www.bit.ly/WelcomeLynx. We continue to invite and welcome new families and staff by encouraging them to join our Facebook group. We have tailored our website to be the go to resource for families needing information about our events, parental involvement and general information about the school. Our welcome wagon tool is also used by the Outreach team to give a more in depth overview of our school so professionals can see all the wonderful things that happen here.

Family Lynx leadership 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 Arguello, Edgenie Bellah, Diane Broadway, Emily Coleman, Miles Fain, Daniel Figueiredo, Mark Gronquist, Rebecca Kirsch, Sara Merritt, Cathy Olsen, Matt Schultz, Dori Senatori and Yolanda Shaw.

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 refreshable braille displays, screen reader software, and magnification software, on top of the skills required to make effective use of internet browsers, office productivity, and communication tools on computers and mobile devices.

In order to create space for students to have access to 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.



Student with his teacher receiving his diploma at graduation

Executive Management Team

Emily Coleman	Superintendent
Miles Fain	Principal of Comprehensive Programs
Dr. Eden Hagelman	Principal of Short-Term Programs
Erica Cairns	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
Angela Wolf	Curriculum Director

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



Student cracking a cascarone on a teacher



Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Established in 1856

WWW.TSBVI.EDU

