

Annual

Report

TSBVI

2024 → 2025



Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

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.



Lee Sonnenberg
Lubbock
President



Dan Brown
Pflugerville



Beth Jones
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Ernest Worthington
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Maghan Gautney
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Brownwood



Julie Prause
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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Raising Expectations at TSBVI and Beyond

Our vision is that all Texas students who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision will be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives. We believe in our students' ability to meet their goals and achieve independence within their education and into adulthood. We offer a multitude of programs to meet individual needs successfully serving the 11,000 students identified as blind, deafblind, or having low vision in Texas.

While strategic planning this year, our staff identified many things they believe TSBVI does well. Examples included how we promote confidence and improve independence. Employees shared we have a supportive community where students feel they can contribute and belong. They noted our inclusive and accepting culture which has a positive impact on students' educational experiences.

When asking our employees how we can improve services for students, they mentioned allowing more opportunities for students to be independent. There are societal misconceptions about blindness that can negatively impact expectations for students and we strive to eliminate them.

We aim to raise expectations throughout Texas for our students through modeling appropriate educational practices and increased opportunities.

TSBVI has the highest student enrollment within our full-time program than we've had in many years. We're reinventing our short-term programs to provide more opportunities for students across the spectrum we serve. We've added positions within our outreach program to better support students in their home communities. We are publishing a new curriculum aiming to promote braille literacy through research-based instruction, which is critical for employment and future success.

Our students will continue to face challenges throughout their life and TSBVI is providing them tools to overcome any obstacles including low expectations from others. We work hard every day empowering students to seek the future they want and plan to achieve. We know they won't be part of TSBVI programs forever, but the confidence and knowledge they gain while in our midst will last their entire lives.

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.



Neill-Cochran House Museum
from late 1856- late 1857

Our Campus Past and Present



Block 71, The Little Campus, the Arno Nowotny Building from late 1857-1916



1916: A 73 acre site between Lamar Rd. and Burnet Rd..



Facade of the main building

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, from birth to age 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

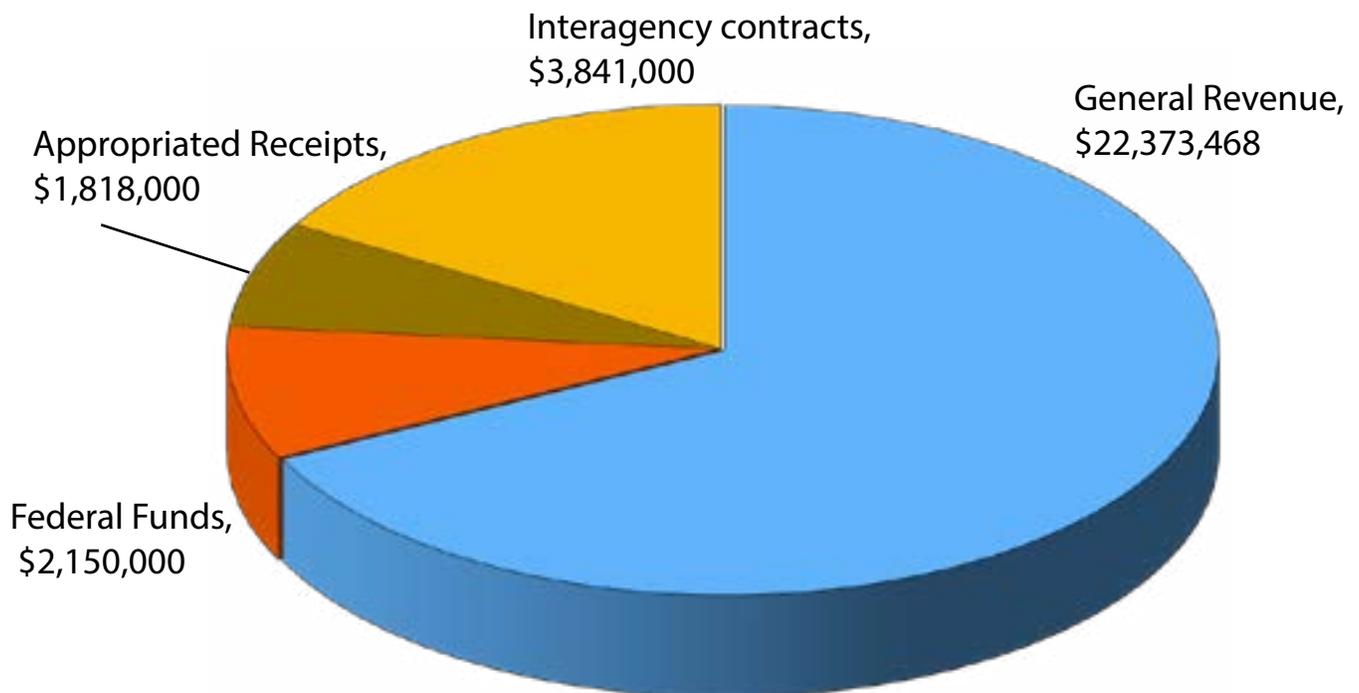
Ann Du
Chief Financial Officer

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

Appropriations categories include:

- ▶ General revenue, \$22,373,468
- ▶ Federal funds, \$2,150,000
- ▶ Appropriated receipts, \$1,818,000
- ▶ Interagency contracts, \$3,841,000

Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriated Funds



Fiscal Year 2025 Total Funding
\$30,182,468

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 focusing on student education, TSBVI strives to meet performance measures set by both the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). Three measures were reported to both TEA and the LBB for the 2024-2025 school year:

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 standard - 85%; LBB standard – 80%.

TSBVI achieved 70.08%.

2. 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 standard - 76% for 2024 survey; TSBVI achieved 83.33% in the 2024

Accreditation and Legislative Budget Board Standards

graduate survey. LBB criteria – 70% for 2025 survey.

TSBVI achieved 62.50%

3. 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. TEA and the LBB had this same performance standard for 2024-2025.

TSBVI's passing rate was 38% and the state of Texas' passing rate was 42%.

Three students with their canes posing for a photo



TSBVI had two additional Comprehensive Program performance measures with the LBB for the 2024-2025 school year:

1. 60% of statewide assessment tests will be passed.

TSBVI students achieved a 50.35% passing rate.

2. Student progress in all 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.

Performance measure achieved. Progress in all ten of the instructional areas was rated as satisfactory, very satisfactory or outstanding by at least 90% of parents, local school students, and students in the 2025 survey.

Teacher coaching her student in the coffee shop



Achievements and Recognition

The following staff members were recognized for their outstanding work during the 2024-25 school year:

- ▶ POSB Outstanding Residential Staff Member: James Fain
- ▶ POSB Outstanding Paraprofessional: Yamal Said
- ▶ Outreach Professional: Rachel Collins
- ▶ Outreach Staff: David Hook
- ▶ Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments: Aaron Mason
- ▶ Teacher of Students with Visual and Multiple Impairments: Erin Syler
- ▶ Related Service Provider: Marcela Contreras

Student receiving an award from Trustee Prause and Principal Fain



Activities and Resources

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. We also utilized the smaller group sizes and contextualized staff groupings to facilitate guest presentations and trainings for technology, curriculum, and other special topics throughout the year.

Three students attending a workshop on blind fencing



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 find out what is the latest, greatest new book. Librarian Renee Toy, conducts reading and story time with 13 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 book.

► The Recording Studio/Lab

This year, the LRC's Broadcast Studio launched Audio Production Level 1, a hands-on course introducing students to the fundamentals of music and live audio production. Students explore the full production process from recording and mixing to mastering using accessible hardware and software tools to create original beats and tracks.

Beyond the studio, students gain real-world experience by managing live sound for campus events such as Java Jam (formerly Coffee House), the Farmer's Market, and Book Reading events in the LRC. These opportunities help students apply their technical and creative skills in authentic performance environments while supporting the wider school community!

► 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. Our certified transcribers continue to create braille books for students on demand so they are able to choose books



Student selling her crafts at the farmers' market

they want to read. 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.

► 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 and provide funds to purchase new books. They will also scan books for us to put into braille when we can't get editable text from other sources. Volunteers from VT Seva, a volunteer organization whose mission is to empower youth with the values of volunteerism, have also continued to record books for our library. The variety of audio picture books has created so many amazing book choices for our elementary students. The listening center VT Seva created is one of the most used areas in the library.

Activities and Resources Continued

► Book Groups

Our book groups continue to expand with a total of three that meet each week this year. Our High School Book Group takes place during lunch on Wednesdays, the Elementary group meets on Thursdays, and this year we have a Middle School group that meets on Tuesdays. Our cafeteria staff pack sack lunches that students eat in the library while we all read, discuss and enjoy books.

► Additional Activities in the LRC

Classes continue to visit the library each week to read books, ask for book suggestions, and participate in literacy activities. We hosted a Voter Registration Drive, had visitors from Mentor Center TVIs and have registered a number of students for the Texas Talking Book Program. The LRC staff continues to provide braille, tactile graphics, large print, large format and 3D materials for the entire campus.

The LRC continues to collaborate with schools for the blind, universities, and other institutions to advance best practices in the design and production of accessible 3D materials for individuals with print disabilities. A bi-monthly 3D for Educators Zoom meeting is hosted to provide professional support and to share current information regarding accessible 3D printers, software, and implementation strategies.

The demand for 3D models across campus continues to increase. To efficiently manage these requests, a help desk ticket system has been implemented. Requests have included adaptive utensil handles for the Occupational Therapy Department, animal

models for science instruction, architectural replicas such as the Alamo, and QR codes linking to accessible digital documents and classroom timelines.

Assistive and Instructional Technology

► TechCats Newsletter

Instructional Technology Coordinator Daniel Wheeler produced 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.

► Assistive Technology-focused Study Groups

This year our Assistive Technology (AT) teachers led monthly study groups that were centered on some of our essential AT areas: JAWS, VoiceOver, Switch Access, 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.

Students playing keyboards for the student synth band



Activities and Resources Continued

► Makerspace

Over the 2024-2025 school year, the Makerspace has continued to grow as a hub for creativity, technical learning, and collaboration across campus. Teachers and students have made increasing use of the space for both classroom-integrated and independent projects, with expanded access to the 3D printers, laser cutters, and hand tools. Students have developed practical problem-solving skills through guided projects in disassembly and repair, construction, and basic electronics. New rotating activities have also been introduced, such as tactile design challenges and STEM-aligned 3D printer projects connecting hands-on work and tactile models to core academic subjects.

engagement with the space. This year, staff participated in additional training on digital fabrication (3D printing and laser cutting) and tool safety allowing more teachers to confidently design lessons incorporating 3D printing, laser cutting, and collaborative design. As a result, the number of classes and student groups utilizing the Makerspace has continued to increase.

“TSBVI has been life changing for our daughter and family in the best of ways. So thankful!”

Professional learning opportunities have continued to strengthen teacher

Student and staff prepare to run in the Duo Dash 1K



TSBVI student teaching a visiting HS student how to use a braille



Career Education

Career Education Courses

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 of Academics and Personal Success
Work Exploration
Student to Industry Connection
Career Prep 1

We offered the following Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses:

1. Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness
2. Principles of Human Service
3. Interpersonal Studies
4. Child Development
5. Principles of Hospitality
6. Hospitality Services
7. General Employability
8. Student to Industry Connection
9. Career Prep 1
10. Professional Communications
11. Audio/ Video Production Level 1 and 2

Additionally, we offered the following locally developed Career Education course:

- Work Exploration- Students participate in a work-based practicum, on-campus, that is tailored to students' individual interests.

Student and staff learning how to make a smoothie



Student cooking vegetables on the grill



Career Education Continued

Community-based Work Training

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

1. Austin Lighthouse for the Blind
2. HEB
3. Kalahari Resorts
4. Double Tree Hotel
5. Wheatsville Co-Op
6. Westin at the Domain
7. Cafe Monet
8. Gethsemane Lutheran Child Development Center
9. Guitar Center
10. Austin Humane Society
11. The Villages Retirement and Nursing Home
12. Crossfit Central
13. Capital Area Foodbank
14. Yarbrough Public Library

Students visit Austin Lighthouse to learn about job opportunities



Community-based Internships

► Lighthouse for the Blind

The Austin Lighthouse hosted 10 student interns. 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 performing light cleaning responsibilities. Students quickly became part of the HEB team and were working independently with intermittent staff support. Two students were offered full-time competitive employment at the HEBs in their local communities after this internship and one accepted.

Student with his family on Family Day



Additional Career Education Initiatives

► Kalahari Resort

TSBVI launched a new Internship Program in collaboration with Kalahari Resorts. As part of this initiative, students gained valuable hands-on experience in customer service by assisting in Kalahari's retail stores, organizing and restocking returned items, and performing light cleaning tasks. Through this partnership, students became integrated members of the Kalahari team, demonstrating independence and confidence while receiving intermittent staff support as needed.

► 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 2024-2025 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.

Two students playing music at Java Jams



Student learning how to use a commercial espresso machine



Fine Arts Activities

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

Music Teachers Eva Van Houten and Kai Jasmin led an inspiring year of musical achievements, celebrating the 14th year of our classical guitar program and guiding students through multiple performances. Under their direction, the choir, mariachi ensemble, classical guitar and general music classes performed at White Cane Day, Family Day, Fiesta and the Holiday and End-of-the-Year Big Show concerts. The Mariachi band represented TSBVI at the South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) in Oklahoma in January, where they proudly displayed their talents.

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

Art Teachers Gretchen Bettles and Jena Alexander held the 10th annual Family Day art shows in November 2024, where their fine arts students showcased their artwork in ceramics, fiber arts/weaving, and multi-media art in the Building 606 foyer and the fine arts gallery on campus. Students also had their work displayed digitally in May 2025, in the 2nd annual End-of-Year Digital Art Showcase.

Art Students also had a spectacular art show collaboration with the artists of Almost Real Things (ART) Art Gallery called "Touch the Art," an accessible art show for the citizens of Austin.

Student dressed as a character in Moana Jr. She is wearing a colorful orange dress with a sash



Student sings a solo on stage for Moana Jr.



Student with a large hook in his hand sings on stage



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

Students participating in dragon boat races on Town Lake



Student digging in the sand during a field trip to the beach



Student touching table decorations during a special lunch event



“Excellent school, all the staff are very kind. My thanks to all the teachers for their work, and I have seen a lot of progress in my daughter!”

Athletics and Other Special Events

August 26 - Tandem Bike Rides in the evening in the neighborhood began

August 26 - Blind Cricket demonstration with the World Champion players from India

August 28 - Wildcat and South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB) Cheerleading Practice began

August 28 - September 8 - Paris 2024 Paralympic Games watch parties featuring Goalball and Blind Football

September 17 - Student Council meetings began

October 2 - Back to School Dance at the Recreation Building

October 4-6 - Savannah Fall Youth Goalball Tournament in Savannah, Georgia
The TSBVI Boys' Goalball Team had an extraordinary weekend in Savannah, Georgia, where they captured the Gold medal.

October 16 - White Cane Day

October 25-26 - Sports Extravaganza in Dallas
Students competed in events such as Track and Field, Goalball and Beep Baseball.

October 31 - Trick or Trunk with Delta Gamma Sorority on Wildcat Run

October 31 - Halloween Party in the Quad

November 5 - Blind Awareness Day, TSBVI students who also attend McCallum High School classes participated in activities such as exposure to orientation and mobility and

Two students collecting candy from the Delta Gammas during the Trunk or Treat event



assistive technology with Peer Assisted Leadership Strategies (PALS) students from McCallum High School.

November 9 - Family Day

November 13 - Farmer's Market in the Quad
Participating classes sold handmade crafts and treats.

November 13 - Duo Dash 1K
Students participated with runners from the Girls School of Austin

November 13 - Delta Gamma Sorority Party/Dance at the Recreation Building with Spanish as the theme, Viva España.

November 14 - Live music! The Obsolete Machines at the Recreation Building

November 11-15 - Spirit Week
Monday - Dress up as a grandma or grandpa

Athletics and Other Special Events

Tuesday - Twin Day

Wednesday - School Spirit

Thursday - Dress up as your favorite musician or character

Friday - Pajama Day

November 20 - Thanksgiving Parade around campus

December 5-8 - National Goalball Championships in Saint Augustine, Florida
The boys' team won the bronze medal.
The team also received the sportsmanship award, and Javier Saldierna and Christopher Zamacona earned All-American honors.

December 11 - Farmer's Market in the Quad

December 12 - Student Council Winter Formal Dance at the Recreation Building.

December 17 - Jingle Bell Run
Students earned a jingle bell each time they made a lap at the track.

December 18 - Holiday Big Show musical performances

January 21 - Talent Show in the Auditorium

January 23-26 - SCASB Wrestling, Cheerleading & Performing Arts - Cheerleading & Wrestling competition at the Oklahoma School for the Blind
Congratulations to the individual winners in cheer and the 3rd-place team in wrestling, along with numerous individual medals and accolades. Students shined on stage, as well as in the Mariachi band and other performances.

January 24 - Junior Varsity UIL District Wrestling Meet

January 30 - Active Prismatic Listening in the Goalball Gym

January 31 - Feb 1 - Varsity UIL District Wrestling

February 6 - The Community Steel Band Concert in the auditorium with TSBVI student members

February 11 - Glow-in-the-Dark Valentine's Dance at the Recreation Building



Student collecting bells at the Jingle Bell Run



Students wrestling at SCASB tournament

Athletics and Other Special Events

February 12 - Wildcat Heart Challenge with jumping rope and movement to support heart health

March 14 - Special Olympics

April 3 - Prom - The Enchanted Garden Prom at the Red Oak Ballroom for students in grades 11 and 12

April 10-12, 2025 - SCASB Track and Field at the Alabama School for the Blind

April 26-25 - Annual Austin Dragon Boat/Paddle Race at Lady Bird Lake

May 1-4 - North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) Swim Meet in Jacksonville, Illinois

May 15-17 - School Play: Moana Jr. the Musical

Student throwing a ball at a target for the Special Olympics event



Student in a wildcat mascot costume playing the guitar



Staff and students on trikes parade around campus for the Thanksgiving parade



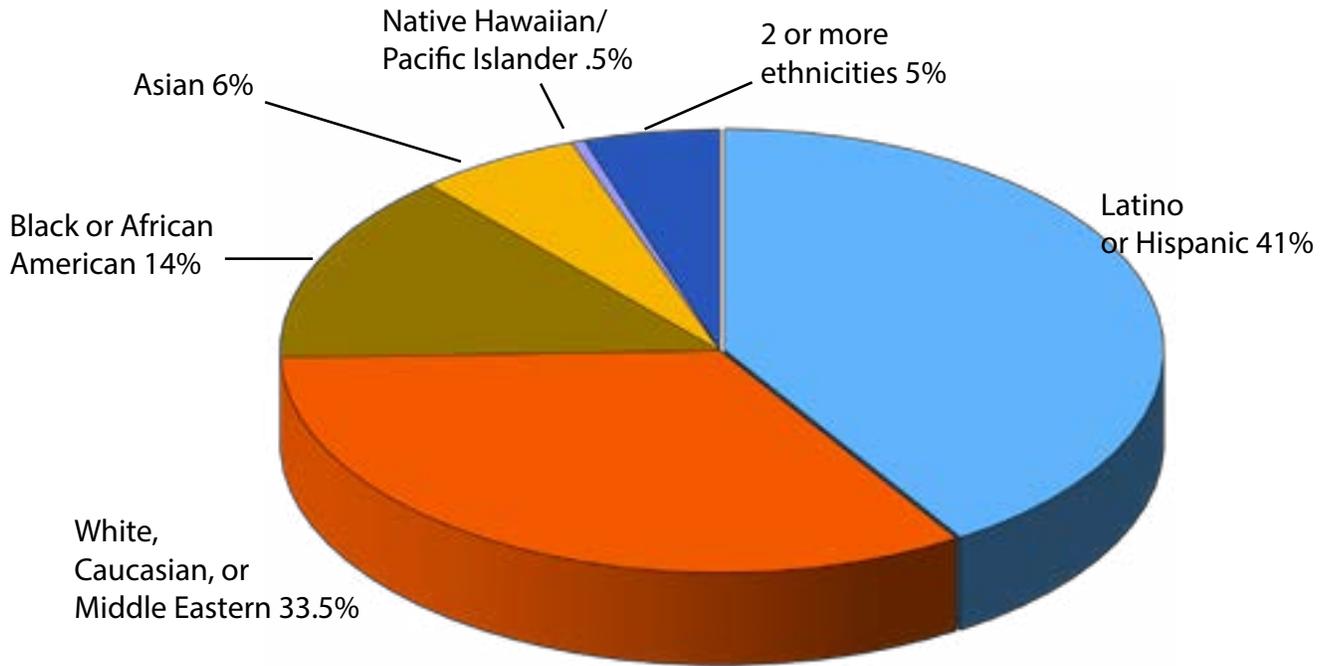
“My daughter has blossomed since beginning her journey at TSBVI. The staff and peers are helping her see that she is not alone in the journey of visual impairment/blindness.”

Enrollment Statistics 2024-2025

149 students representing 91 local school districts throughout Texas were enrolled in Comprehensive Programs.

Comprehensive Programs	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Elementary Program	13	13	12	13	19
Secondary Program	119	121	120	124	122
Post-Secondary Program	0	2	8	8	8
Total	132	136	140	145	149

Ethnicity of Students in Comprehensive Programs



Student giving an interview to a local reporter



“Always a pleasure to work with staff, many go above and beyond what is required of them.”

Student participating in a beeping Easter egg hunt



Cheerleader holding a sign overhead that says "Stomp your feet"

"Love her teacher! I was able to spend half a day with her teacher on campus attending her classes and talking with her staff. I am beyond pleased with the progress she is making and how happy she is at TSBVI."



Student and staff celebrate at the Spring Fiesta event



Group of students hold a trophy overhead

"The professionalism and kindness of the staff I have worked with at TSBVI has been outstanding. Thank you all for all you do."

Short-Term Programs

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, 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 243 students from across the state
- ▶ 97.50% percent of students demonstrated progress as Measured by Pre and Post-Assessments
- ▶ Served students from 17 of 20 educational regions
- ▶ Offered two new classes: High School Independence Weekend: College and Vocational Prep and High School Independence Weekend: Performing Arts in Focus
- ▶ Presented at Mentor Center and TAER
- ▶ Continued to offer Algebra I for credit (1.0) class during the year, and PE for credit (.05) during the summer.



Group of students on a field trip to a drama studio

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. HS Independence Weekend: In the Heart of Texas
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. College and Vocational Prep (gr. 9-12)
13. HS Independence Weekend: Iron Chef
14. High School Access to Academic Skills- Spring (gr. 9-12)
15. Game of Life for Students and Families (gr. 6-9)
16. Magical World of STEAM
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. City Travel for COMS and Their Students (gr. 7-12)
22. HS Independence Weekend: Outdoor Challenge (gr. 9-12)
23. Capitol Experience (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: Nature Navigators (gr. 3-5)
27. High School Wellness Weekend: Performing Arts in Focus (gr. 9-12)

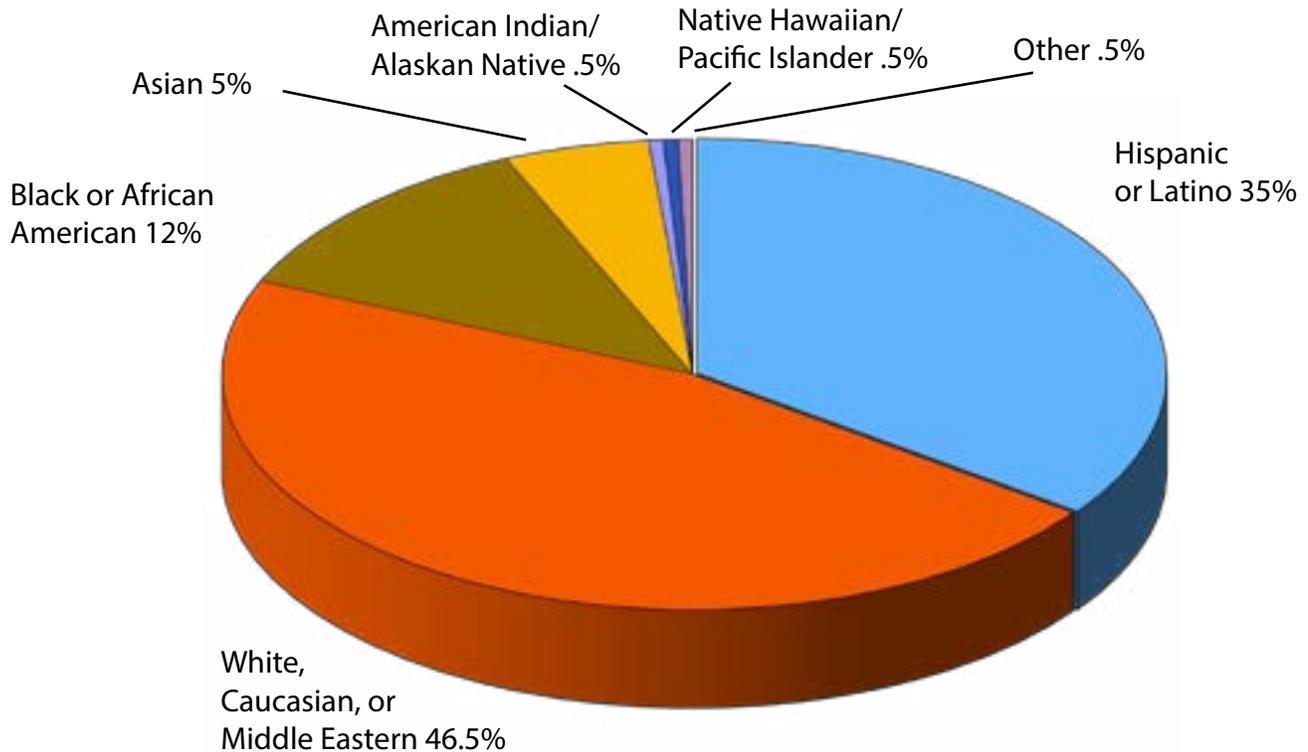


Short-Term Programs Enrollment Statistics (School Year)

STP served 243 students, representing 17 Education Service Centers and 90 local school districts from across the state.

Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Students	366	311	279	259	243

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



Short-Term Programs Survey Responses

From Parents, Local School Districts, and Students (School Year)



Student holding an eye pillow made of felt

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



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

Short-Term Programs Performance Measures 2024-2025

TSBVI had two performance criteria for 2024-2025 that are tied to measures developed with the Legislative Budget Board and/or appear in the School Improvement Plan. TSBVI exceeded both performance goals 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 97.50%**
- ▶ 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 100%**

Student holding the head of a cute donkey



“I must say the classes that they offer right now are spectacular and I think that they’re doing a great job”

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 ECC skills in enrichment activities in unique themed classes.
- ▶ Elementary Summer Enrichment (ESE) provides students with opportunities to practice ECC 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, preferences, 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. WALIC students gain pre-employment and transition skills through hands-on lessons and community job placements, as well as experience with independent living. Students are usually enrolled in self-contained classrooms in their local districts and generally take the STAAR Alternate assessment.

Student placing his hands on a silver sphere generator



Short-Term Programs Achievements (Summer)

Served 202 students

Served students from 17 of 20 educational regions

“My daughter had so many good things to say about the staff in this program. Thank you very much, we are very happy with all the staff and all the support they give us.

Group of students huddling together with their hands in a circle

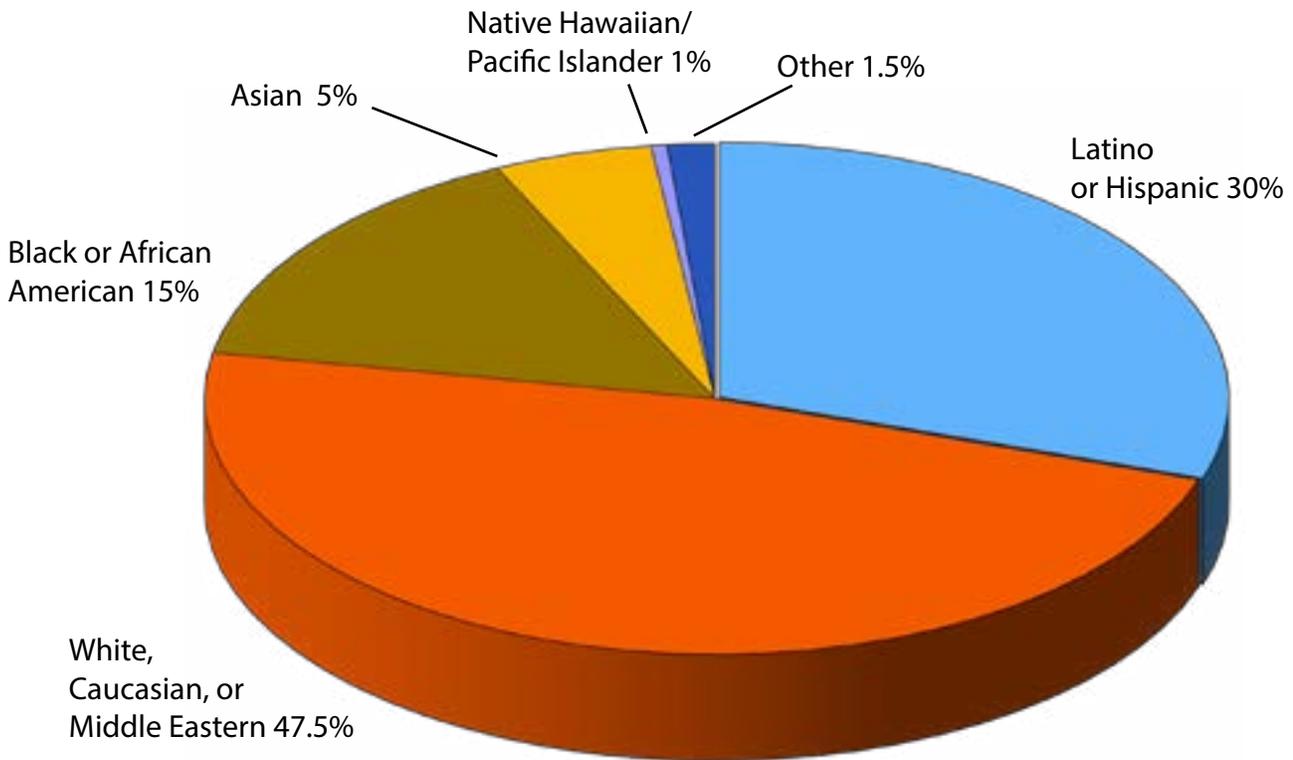


Enrollment Statistics (Summer)

202 students attended, representing 17 of the 20 Education Service Center regions and 113 local school districts throughout Texas.

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Students	169	220	215	205	202

Ethnicity of Students in Short-Term Programs (Summer)



Short-Term Programs Performance Measures (Summer)2024-2025

The summer 2025 program had one performance measure in TSBVI’s Annual Improvement Plan (AIP):

Goal: 90% of local school districts and parents rate students’ learning experiences in summer programs as very satisfactory or outstanding.

96.55% of respondents rated the summer programs learning experiences as very satisfactory or outstanding.



Student dipping strawberries in chocolate

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

“My daughter loves attending TSBVI Short Term Programs. She looks forward to each one and never is ready to come home. JAWS is extremely important and will be used throughout her education and future. Having somewhere to get hands on experience is invaluable. ”



Student tracing the maze with his hand



Student using a press to prepare food

“Everyone was so welcoming - they answered all of our questions. Everything was well organized and information was given so that everyone could understand. ”

“My son had a blast and learned to be more independent. Thank you so much!”



Student shooting a compound bow

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 marching and drumming around campus for White Cane Day



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 TVIs and COMS 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: 100% 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 255 conferences and/or workshop sessions at local districts, regional service centers, and statewide and national venues, including via distance technologies, for 6,688 participants. Of those who completed an online evaluation, 91.49% rated the effectiveness of consultations and workshops 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 training were sponsored directly by TSBVI Outreach, including:



Teachers and staff in the auditorium

- ▶ The Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education
- ▶ The Southwest Orientation and Mobility Association (SWOMA) Conference
- ▶ The Active Learning Conference
- ▶ Intervener Training
- ▶ Braille Boot Camp
- ▶ Baby's Day Out
- ▶ Low Vision on the Road
- ▶ In the Driver's Seat
- ▶ Statewide Mentor Program and Mentor Center
- ▶ Coffee Hours and Tech Tea Time

Topics covered include:

- ▶ Behavior
- ▶ Braille literacy and tactile graphics
- ▶ Calendars and Routines
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Cortical visual impairment (CVI)
- ▶ Evaluation
- ▶ Low vision devices and strategies for use
- ▶ Orientation and mobility strategies
- ▶ Tactile language development

Achievements

During 2024-2025, Outreach Programs hosted four in-person conferences: the Southwest Orientation and Mobility Association (SWOMA) Conference, the Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education, the Low Vision Conference (in collaboration with ESC Region 13), and the Active Learning Conference (in collaboration with ESC Region 11). These events welcomed participants from across Texas, throughout the United States, and around the world.

Conference	Total Attendees	Professionals	Paraprofessionals and Students	Family Members
SWOMA	210	182	24	4
Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education	267	184	38	45
Low Vision Conference	87	76	8	3
Active Learning Conference	103	92	11	0

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. During 2024-2025, the Project:

- ▶ Supported 1092 service recipients through technical assistance
- ▶ Met 17 of 17 milestones for the reporting period
- ▶ Completed 41 intensive child-specific TA activities
- ▶ Supported 76 recipients with transition-specific TA

Members of the Deafblind team played an integral role in developing SBEC-approved standards for the state certification of teachers of students who are deafblind. In collaboration with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), team members also developed test items for the Teacher of Students who are Deafblind (TDB) certification exam. Candidates will be eligible to take the exam once an educator preparation program has been approved.



Staff demonstrating technology

Family Engagement

Families have a long-term impact on the success of their children’s educational programs. Outreach Programs continuously provide family support and consultation, participate in conferences and workshops for families, and serve as a resource to a variety of family networks. Feedback from family stakeholders is incorporated into the planning of all family engagement events and activities.

In January 2025, two Family Focus Groups were held, and a companion survey was distributed to families who were unable to attend. The feedback collected from both sources informed the annual planning process for family engagement initiatives.

The Family Engagement and Transition consultants also continued to offer a monthly opportunity for families to connect through the Family Recharge Zone (FRZ)—a supportive, dedicated space designed exclusively for families to share experiences, build connections, and recharge.



Family members cheer on students

Personnel Preparation and Mentoring

TSBVI remains an active partner in the professional development of new Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVIs) and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS). With support from TSBVI’s state and federal funds, as well as the TSBVI VI Mentor Program, 52 new VI professionals were employed in Texas. In the fall of 2025, Texas universities reported a total enrollment of 199 students in VI preparation programs, including 104 new students. During 2024–2025, 83 new TVIs and COMS received mentoring through the VI Mentor Program. There are currently 414 VI professionals across the state who are trained Mentors.



Staff meeting with leaders in the blind and VI community

Statewide Collaboration and Networks

Outreach staff actively promote, encourage, and value collaboration with regional and statewide entities, including:

1. The West Texas Cluster
2. Education Service Centers
3. The Texas Action Committee for the Education of Students with Visual Impairments
4. TEA and Region 11: Special Education Specialized Supports
5. Personnel Preparation Advisory Group
6. Texas Technology Access Program (TTAP)
7. Family Organizations
 - ◇ Parent to Parent
 - ◇ Texas Hands and Voices
 - ◇ Deafblind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT)
 - ◇ Texas Chargers
 - ◇ Family Lynx
8. Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
9. The Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans (AVIT)

Outreach staff present at a training



"It was an amazing experience, very educational, as a certified intervener, I can say that my knowledge had improved by attending this conference!"

Staff at a table during an event



Online and Distance Initiatives

The use of remote and digital training tools has expanded access to high-quality professional development and increased the dissemination of training materials. Many of Outreach Programs' online presentations—such as Coffee Hour and Tech Tea Time—were archived and posted on the TSBVI website for on-demand viewing.

Outreach Programs also continue to offer web-based study groups on topics such as cortical visual impairment, strategies for supporting students who are deafblind, active learning, early childhood development, and coaching. These virtual sessions enable professionals across Texas to engage in focused discussions, connect with peers, and access expert guidance—all without the time and travel costs associated with in-person training.

Students listening to a presenter after lunch



Outreach Program Performance Measures

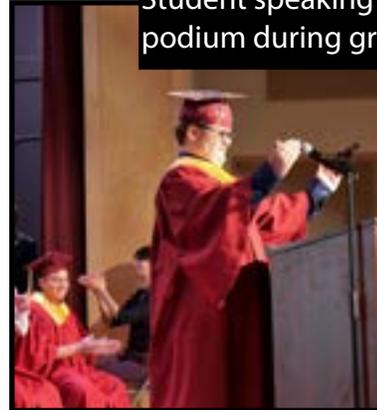
TSBVI had three performance measures for 2024-2025 that were developed with the Legislative Budget Board. Here are the results:

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 84.99%

85% of Outreach customers will rate as very satisfactory or outstanding the effectiveness of consultations or workshops –
TSBVI achieved 91.49%

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%.

Student speaking at the podium during graduation



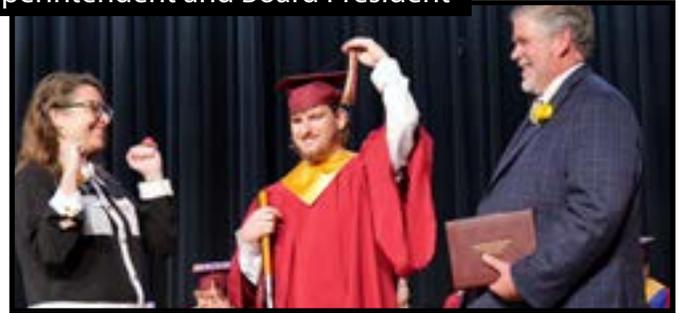
Staff and student ready for Thanksgiving lunch



Outreach Programs Survey Responses From Parents, and Local School Districts

“The speakers that I attended were wonderful, knowledgeable, and passionate about their work in the field. This conference was one of the best I have ever attended. Thank you!”

Student celebrating graduation with Superintendent and Board President



“I LOVED this presentation. I was fully engaged for the entire thing. The presenters had great info. that I hope to be able to implement with future students!!”



Students preparing for customers

“This session was phenomenal, full of information, and I thoroughly enjoyed it!”

Student and staff prepare to sell items at a table



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), orientation and mobility specialists (OMS), 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.

sales were in January 2025 with \$32,864.83. Followed by sales in June 2025 and February 2025. The second edition of Essential Tools of the Trade (ETT) had the highest percentage of sales (27.01%). Our most popular products that were sold (other than the above-mentioned publication) include Essential Tools of the Trade for Teachers of Students who are Deafblind, TAPS, Calendars, and Making Evaluation Meaningful.

In FY2025, the Curriculum Department had total sales of \$207,762.89. The highest

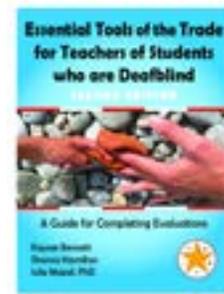
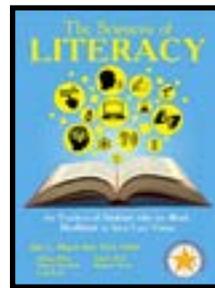
Staff walking to a training session



New Publications

The Following publications were produced in FY2025:

- ▶ Revision of Essential Tools of the Trade for Teachers of Students who are Deafblind
- ▶ Sciences of Literacy for Teachers of Students who are Blind, Deafblind, or have Low Vision



Two blue book covers one has yellow accents and the other has fingers touching

Publications Under Development

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

- ▶ Essential Tools of the Trade for Orientation and Mobility Specialists (2026)
- ▶ Revision of Calendars (September 2026)
- ▶ Deep in the Heart of Literacy: Volume 1-Emergent Literacy (August 2026)
- ▶ Essential Tools of the Trade for Early Childhood Teachers (October 2027)

Curriculum Support (School-wide and State-wide)

The Curriculum Department presented at the Tactile Reading Conference in Amsterdam on the Essential Tools of the Trade, Second Edition and on topics related to the science of literacy. Additionally, we provided training sessions on both of these topics at Educational Service Centers around 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.

Woman at a table listening to a speaker



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 2024-2025 school year, TSBVI met one out of three criteria areas approved by TEA as performance measures.

Family Lynx Parent/Teacher/ Alumni Organization

Key Events for 2024-2025 School Year

Family Lynx Welcome table at Registration Day,
August 18, 2024

Fall Family Lynx Zoom Meeting, Topic: Family
Involvement with Principal Miles Fain,
September 17, 2024

Spring Family Lynx Zoom Meeting, Topic:
Transition Steps with Family Lynx Leader
Barbara Knighton, February 11, 2024

Prom Red-Carpet Zoomcast & Parent Paparazzi,
April 3, 2025

2024-2025 Family Lynx Leaders
Barbara Knighton, Joshua's mom
Amy Potts, Rees' mom

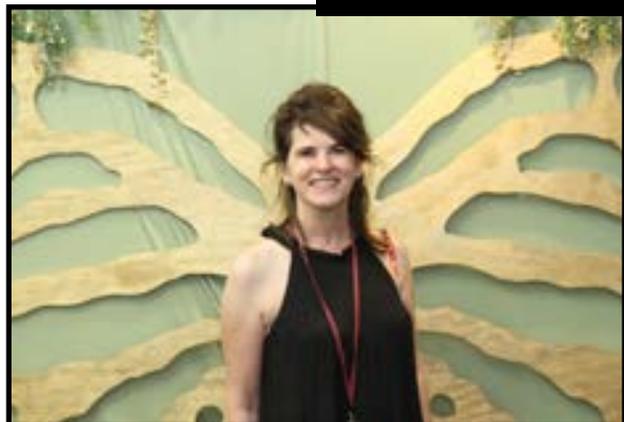


Staff Appreciation

Family Lynx kicked off a new staff appreciation initiative of weekly drawing for HEB gift cards which is announce during morning announcements. This has been very popular with the staff.

Family Lynx also gave aPAWs certificates and small gift to each staff member with the help of EXIT students who assembled and made deliveries.

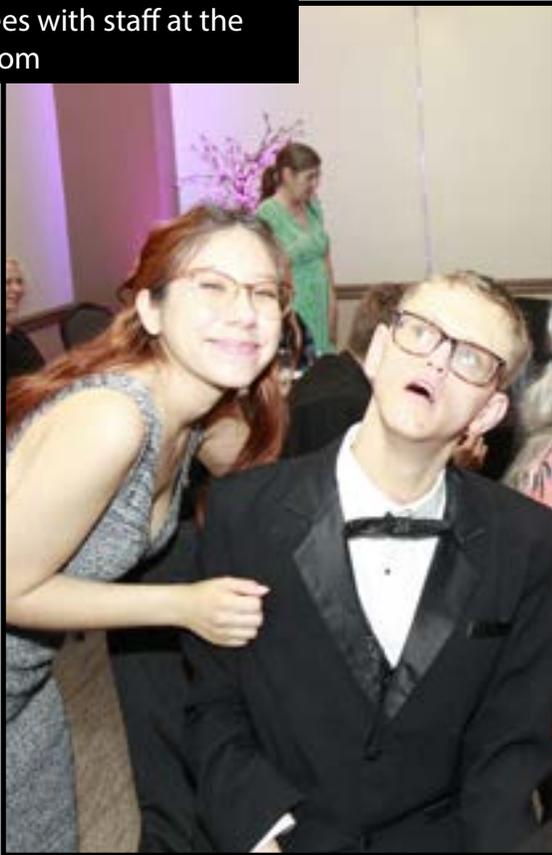
Amy Potts at the prom



Visit FamilyLynx.org

Family Lynx Highlights

Rees with staff at the prom



Family Lynx Leadership

Family Lynx leaders worked with TSBVI administration and Advisory Committee to identify which projects were most beneficial and best use of resources throughout the year.

The final meeting of the Family Lynx Advisory Committee was held in February 2025. Gratitude was expressed for the help they have provided to help families feel more connected to TSBVI through Family Lynx initiatives.

In May 2025 Family Lynx founding leader Barbara Knighton rolled off as Family Lynx leader as her son will be entering his final year of the EXIT program. She was honored at the May TSBVI board meeting for her accomplishments and dedication

Caterpillar eating a flower in the butterfly garden



2024-2025 Family Lynx Advisors

Alex Argüello, Volunteer & Community Engagement

Edgenie Bellah, Outreach

Diane Broadway, Communications

Emily Coleman, Administration

Miles Fain, Administration

Nancy Fitch, Counselor/Leader Liaison

Mark Gronquist, Recreation

Eden Hagleman, Short Term Programs

Katherine Houck, Social Worker/Leader Liaison

Beckie Kirsch, EXIT Program

Cathy Olsen, Registration

Matt Schultz, Residential Program

Dori Senatori, Day Students

Yolanda Shaw, Outreach

Information Resources Department

Scott Brackett, Director

The Information Resources Department at TSBVI works 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 includes the technology that they need to flourish. This means learning and mastering refreshable braille displays, screen reader software, and or magnification software. In addition to assistive technology, students will also receive instruction on safe and effective use of internet browsers, office productivity software, Generative A.I. and

communication tools on computers and mobile devices.

In order to create space for students to understand their technology, we must also take security very seriously. Our culture of continuous improvement, supported by modern content filtering, endpoint protection, and other security measures, ensures that our students' 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.



Three students taking a group picture at the White Cane Day festival

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
Marlo Kibler	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 plays the guitar with his teachers at graduation



Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Established in 1856

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