APH Supports and Services

Connecting Tools, Resources, and Teams

Pre-Survey

- Pre-Survey Link
- Your professional title(s).
- How familiar are you with the topic of today's professional development session?
- How confident are you in applying instructional strategies related to today's topic in your professional practice?
- How comfortable are you with adapting teaching strategies related to today's topic to meet the unique needs of your students?
- What is one way you might use the information from this training in your work?

Dr. Stephanie Walker

APH Southcentral Outreach Specialist

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Identify APH products, services, and resources that support students who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision.
- Describe how APH Outreach services connect schools, educators, and families with training and resources.
- Determine strategies for integrating APH tools and supports into educational practice.

Background

APH

The American Printing House for the Blind is world's largest nonprofit organization creating accessible learning experiences through educational, workplace, and independent living products and services for people who are blind and low vision. APH was

founded in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1858, making it the oldest institution of its kind in the United States.

Mission and Vision

- "Empowering people who are blind or low vision by providing accessible and innovative products, materials and services for lifelong success."
- "We believe the future belongs to everyone."

The Federal Quota Program

Start with the Students

The **Act to Promote the Education of the Blind** was enacted in 1879 to provide adapted educational materials to eligible students who meet the definition of blindness.
The oldest legislation relating to visual impairment!

Who is Eligible

For students to be eligible to participate in the Federal Quota Program, they MUST fulfill the following requirements:

- meet the definition of blindness - that is, have a "central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses" or
- a peripheral field of vision no greater than 20 degrees or
- visual performance reduced by brain injury or dysfunction when visual function meets the definition of blindness as determined by an eye care specialist or neurologist

Change 2024

If neither are met, school-aged students may also be eligible because they:

- Qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) definition of blindness: an impairment in vision, that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance (34 CFR §300.8(c)(13)).*

And

- Be enrolled in a formally organized public or private, nonprofit educational program of less than college-level
- Be enrolled with the registering school or agency on the first Monday in January
- Adult students must complete 120 hours of documented educational work in the preceding calendar year.

How Does it Work?

- Congress appropriates funds each October.
- Divide by the total registered, eligible students on the Census.
- Multiply the registered students for a state by the per-child amount.
- Credit to each account, establishing the "quota" for the federal fiscal year.
- Quota monies are administered by Ex Officio Trustees.
- The EOTs are responsible for determining how the funds are distributed for their organization.
- Quota monies can only be used by APH for the payment of labor and materials, plus reasonable administrative overhead.

Who are the Ex Officio Trustees?

- Designated individuals for each residential school, state department of education, and agency for the blind that participates in the Federal Quota program.
- Each Ex Officio is entrusted with the administration of the Federal Quota Program within his or her system.

What Do Quota Funds Cover?

- Over 500 Universally Designed products
- High Tech and Low Tech
- Core Curriculum and Expanded Core Curriculum

- Alternative format Textbooks
- Software Licenses (JAWS, ZoomText, Fusion)

Outreach Services

Working together for better Solutions for Everyone

Outreach Services Goal

Increase awareness about the products and services offered by APH through:

- Distance learning
- Statewide/nationwide training opportunities
- Exhibits and presentations at regional, statewide, and national conferences
- Professional learning communities
- Parent and family training opportunities

Regional Service Mission

- Provide quality professional development on APH Products & Services
- Develop state and regional training opportunities to meet the needs of EOTs, VI Professionals, and families
- Connect APH with educational practice in the field of vision
- Promote research-based models of best practice for the field

Colored Map of Regions

- Southcentral Region
  - Arkansas
  - Kansas
  - Missouri
  - Nebraska
  - Oklahoma
  - Texas

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide networking opportunities among vision professionals

- Promote the professional learning management system. Attend regional events such as regional AER conferences, state meetings, Braille Challenge events, etc.
- Answer questions about the skills, policies, and issues surrounding the education of children and adults with visual impairments
- Provide new information to the region, allowing field knowledge to spread quicker
- Promote career awareness

Who do you contact?

- Quota reporting, orders, repairs, and passwords
  - TSBVI
- A technical issue with a device or materials ordered through APH
  - Customer Service and Support at APH
- If you need a vendor table/booth only
  - Social Enterprise department at APH

When to contact me

- For training needs related to an APH product or service
- If a teacher, parent, or other service provider needs assistance implementing an APH product or service
- For specific technical issues, teachers may want to contact customer service first. They have access to a database of known issues and solutions.

Supplant

APH Outreach Specialists are prohibited from supplanting federal quota funds, including providing APH materials or technology for direct student use. Outreach has limited inventory for long-term loans to support teacher and parent training.

Regional Partnerships – CATT

- APH continues to expand its service and support through the Centers for Assistive Technology Training (CATT).
- The Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT) Project is a collaboration between the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB).

Grants & Events

APH Abacus Bee

- Abacus Bee | American Printing House
- A friendly contest
- For students to:
  - Increase their math skills;
  - Unlock scientific thinking;
  - Contribute to STEM;
  - Learn and grow
  - Personally
  - And professionally!

APH National Coding Symposium and Day of Code

- National Coding Symposium | American Printing House
- Coding, programming, and related careers are open to students who are BVI.
- Students can participate in computer science classes or learn coding independently at home.
- Learn hands on at a regional Day of Code.
- Join the virtual National event

Monarch Programs

Monarch RISE Project

- 5-Year DIF grant
- 14 + seeking CIE
- Provides Monarch devices + innovative training

Monarch Student Pilot Project (MSPP)

- Year-round Monarch loan
- 4th–11th grade, braille readers with display experience
- Collects monthly feedback from students & teachers
- Seeking to improve Monarch integration in education

Monarch Support

- monarchsupport@aph.org
- (833) 447-8444
- **Meet Monarch**

Online Professional Development

Access Academy & HIVE

The Hive

Purpose

- Equipping educators to meet the unique needs of students with visual impairments by means of outcome-based learning and access to resources.
- …structured professional learning that results in changes to teacher knowledge and practices…
  --Learning Policy Institute, 2017

Discussion Board Video

Hive's Discussion Board

- Existing User: Sign in at www.aphhive.org
  - Forgot password? Follow reset link.
- New User: Register at www.aphhive.org
  - Create username & password

Webinars

- Access Academy
  - Teachers, professionals, families
  - Best practices, instructional strategies, APH products in context

    - ACVREP credit
- Product Showcase
    - Teachers, families, consumers
    - Demonstrations of new and existing APH products
    - No ACVREP credit
- ConnectCenter
    - Job seekers, transition-age youth, families, service providers
    - Career readiness, independent living, and community resources
    - ACVREP & CRCC credit
    - Multiple series

Access Academy: For the Professionals

- Your one-stop resource for the meaningful education and training webinars you need to get the most out of APH products and services
- Live and recorded

Connect Center

APH ConnectCenter Mission

Our mission is to empower people toward greater independence and lifelong success by providing free curated information and resources to assist children, parents, job seekers, and adults who are blind or low vision.

What is the Job Seekers Toolkit?

- Free, online resource from the APH ConnectCenter and NSITE.
- Designed for individuals who are blind or have low vision.
- Supports career readiness from self-awareness to job retention.

Toolkit Users and Facilitators

- Students (ages 14+), job seekers, VR clients

- Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments
- COMS and transition specialists
- VR counselors and adult educators

Facilitation ensures reflection, connection, and skill application.

APH CareerConnect Webinars

- Career Conversations (2022 to present)
- College Conversations (2023 to present)
- Employment Connections (2023 to present)

All past webinars are available on the APH YouTube Channel

FamilyConnect: Parent Stories

Finding Our Wings: A Mother's Journey with her Daughter

Ready for New Learning

- Bringing Braille Basics Home Series
- Lesson 2: Letters k-t Worksheet
- Finding Accessible Materials: The Louis Database

APH ConnectCenter Contacts

- Email: connectcenter@aph.org
- Follow us on:
  - Facebook: @VisionAware, @CCForJobSeekers, @FamilyConnect
  - YouTube: APHConnectCenter
  - LinkedIn: American Printing House
  - Instagram: @AmericanPrintingHouse
  - Pinterest: @AmericanPrintingHouse

Getting Around the APH Website

- APH Home Page
- Life with Vision Loss
- Educational Tools
- Consulting Services
- Resources

- Get Involved
- About Us

Products & Resources

Now Available on Quota

- Beginning with Braille
- Guidelines and Games for Teaching Efficient Braille Reading
- I-M-ABLE

Braille Tales

- APH's free Braille Tales program provides print books with clear braille labels over each page to children ages 0-5 who are blind or have low vision. The program is also open to families with parents/guardians who are blind or have low vision.

Braille Brain

- Braille Brain
- Free, user-friendly, interactive web-based training program
- An online training for pre- and in-service teachers, para-professionals, and parents
- Instructional best practices
- Braille for those that can read print

BrailleBlaster Transcription Software

- BrailleBlaster - Free
- Translate braille in UEB or EBAE
- Style, Print, and Braille Views
- Both Windows® and Mac®

Free APH Apps

- Monarch Wing It
- Cosmic Number Lines
- Practice2Master Abacus
- Submersible Audio Light Sensor
- Quick and Easy ECC
- BrailleBuzz

- CodeQuest
- Flip-Over FACES
- Practice2Master Fractions
- Slapstack Math
- Talking Typer
- Draw2Measure Protractor
- Visual Brailler
- Math Robot™
- Cedric's Cartesian Quest
- CVI Complexity Sequences
- Astro Adventure Balls
- AnimalWatch Vi Graphics
- Going to the Playground
- AnimalWatch Vi Suite

Music Braille Stickers

- Quickly adapt print music into braille
- No music braille knowledge needed
- Free user guide with lesson ideas
- Music Braille Stickers (1-00032-00)

U.S. Tactile Map Classroom Pack

- Set of 15 tactile maps for student use
- State abbreviations in print + UEB braille
- Supports learning of location, distance, scale, and regions
- Includes guidebook with capitals + activities
- Promotes independent exploration for all students
- US Tactile Map Classroom Pack (1-04114-00)

MathBuilders: Fractions

- Hands-on manipulatives for grades K–3
- Teaches fractions, mixed numbers, decimals
- Materials in UEB, Nemeth, and print
- Includes trays, fraction/decimal pieces, and teacher guide
- Free worksheets & digital guidebook available
- MathBuilders: Fractions (1-04114-00)

Tactile Periodic Table | Nemeth Edition

- Accessible periodic table of elements
- Features braille labels + high-contrast colors
- Includes downloadable reference guide in print & braille

- The Nemeth version of the Tactile Periodic Table (1-03034-00)

Relaunch: EZeeCOUNT Abacus

- 10×10 abacus with two-textured beads
- Red = rough, Yellow = smooth for easy distinction
- Beads slide left/right on elastic bands
- Reverse side doubles as a dry-erase board
- Supports counting, math concepts, and abacus skills
- EZeeCount Abacus(1-03185-00)

PageBlaster™ Embosser

- Tractor-fed embosser for double-sided braille
- Now bundled with TactileView software
- Create, share, and download tactile graphics
- Supports braille, print, or audio labels
- Works with Duxbury DBT for text + graphics in one file
- PageBlaster™ (1-08075-00)

PaigeConnect

- Adds digital input to the classic braille writer
- Provides instant translation & audio feedback
- Connects via Bluetooth (Windows, Android, iOS)
- Includes lessons & games for interactive learning
- Supports teachers, families, and new braille learners
- **Paige Connect**(1-08570-00)

Neptune

- Desktop scan-and-read device
- Reads text aloud or displays in large print + audio
- Use with or without the detachable 13" screen
- Save pages to USB drive for later access
- Portable & lightweight (4 lbs, battery-powered)
- Neptune (1-00430-00)

The Littlest Pumpkin Puzzle set

- The Littlest Pumpkin Puzzle Set supports both original and updated books
- Great support for Second Language Learners

Five Little Speckled Frogs

- Five Little Speckled Frogs will assist in developing core curriculum skills: counting, algebraic thinking, grouping by characteristics, sorting, one-to-one correspondence, spatial recognition, and number recognition.

Envision Kit with Optical Aids

- Teaching the use of optical magnification devices
- It can be paired with the APH FVLMA Kit to determine functional vision with the use of a magnification device for near and distance reading tasks

Monarch

Monarch: An Introduction

- Dynamic tactile device
- 10-lines of 32-cells
  - 3,840 pins refresh, 1 sec
- Android operating system
- Similar dimensions to an average gaming laptop
- 24-Hour Battery Life
- Weighs less than 5 LBs

Monarch: Powered by KeySoft

- Word Processor: KeyWord
- Email: KeyMail
- Math: KeyMath (Graphing Calculator)
- Tactile Viewer
- Braille Editor: Key BRF
- File Manager: Files

- Victor Reader
- Internet Browser: Ecosia
- All applications
    - Start-up
    - Monarch Chess
    - Wing It
    - Periodic Table

What is Terminal Mode?

- Terminal mode allows a Bluetooth-paired device (like a computer) to be controlled using commands on the Monarch
- You can also use a USB cable for a wired connection
- If the paired device is running a screenreader, the Monarch's braille display will show all text in braille that is spoken by the device
- Other Monarch functions are not available in Terminal Mode

Monarch Chess

- Chess was the first of many games that will be created for the Monarch
- Play with another person or against a computer opponent
- Chess pieces are identified on a simple game board grid using letters
- A single dot marker distinguishes one player’s pieces from the other player’s
- Locate and move pieces using the Action button and point-and-click while the Monarch announces positions and movements

Wing-It

- Wing-It is the Monarch's interactive drawing app

- Requires the use of the Wing-It app on an iPhone or iPad with a Bluetooth connection on the Monarch
- Free-form drawing, line, shape, and fill tools allow TVIs, classroom teachers, students, peers, and parents to draw graphics in real time and get instant results
- Labels can be typed using an on-screen keyboard and added in braille to drawings
- Accessible with VoiceOver

Post-Survey

- Post-Survey Link
- Your professional title(s).
- After today's session, how familiar are you with the topic presented?
- After today's session, how confident are you in applying instructional strategies related to today's topic in your professional practice?
- After today's session, how comfortable are you with adapting teaching strategies related to today's topic to meet the unique needs of your students?
- What was the most useful part of this session, and how do you plan to apply what you learned in your professional practice?

APH OUTREACH SERVICES
Dr. Stephanie Walker • swalker@aph.org
Outreach Services • outreach@aph.org
1839 Frankfort Avenue • Louisville, KY 40206
aph.org • outreach@aph.org
800.223.1839