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**Ohio** | Department  
of Education



Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials  
Ohio State School for the Blind Outreach Program and Services

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**Ohio State School for  
the Blind**



## OUTREACH PROGRAM & SERVICES

### Mission Statement

The mission of Outreach Program & Services is to provide technical assistance, professional development, materials and resources to families and local school districts serving children who are blind and visually impaired including those with multiple disabilities.

### Educational Assessment Clinic

A multidisciplinary team conducts weekly educational assessments at OSSB for children with visual impairments, ages three through twenty-one. The evaluation is free of charge and will provide assessment information and suggested interventions regarding the student's educational placement. Appointments are made upon receipt of a completed referral packet, which includes consent of the superintendent or designee from the student's school district of residence. Referral applications are processed, and an appointment date is sent to the parent and to the district contact person responsible for the referral.

For more information call: 614-752-1374.

### Infant/Preschool Outreach Services

Infant/Preschool Outreach is designed to support families and their early intervention/preschool teams throughout Ohio. Staff, licensed in early childhood, visual impairment, orientation and mobility and multiple disabilities, may

provide the following vision-related services at no cost to families or programs:

- . Information on visual impairments and early development.
- . Identification of visual impairment resources and area service providers.
- . Functional vision, orientation and mobility and developmental assessments.
- . Suggestions for environmental adaptations at home and at preschool.
- . Ideas for motivational toys, learning materials and early literacy experiences.
- . Staff in-service trainings on visual impairment related topics.

### School Age Outreach Assessment

A team of evaluators with expertise in the field of visual impairment will travel to local school districts to provide assistance free of charge. The team consists of teachers of the visually impaired with dual certification in orientation & mobility, and/or a school psychologist.

Services offered may include the following:

- . Functional vision assessments
- . Orientation & Mobility Assessments
- . Consultations on classroom adaptations, instructional strategies and best practices
- . Consultations on appropriate assessment tools and methods
- . Consultations on the selection and use of technology to access classroom information

### Deafblind Outreach Services

A deafblind consultant will provide assessment and consultation for children, ages zero through twenty-one, who have a combination of a visual and hearing impairment (Deafblindness is not necessarily completely deaf and blind). In the educational assessment clinic or through outreach, the following services may be provided:

- . Functional vision, functional hearing, tactual and developmental assessment and implications
- . Ideas for social, communication, movement, literacy and learning strategies
- . Suggestions for environmental adaptations and materials
- . Staff in-service trainings on topics related to visual impairment in combination with hearing impairment and/or multiple disabilities

### Parent Mentor

A Parent Mentor is a parent of a child with a disability, who provides support and resources to families of children with disabilities and the professionals who serve them state-wide. All services are provided free of charge.

A Parent Mentor may:

- . Act as a liaison between families of children with visual impairments and school personnel
- . Connect families to District Parent Mentors, where available, or to Regional Parent Advocates
- . Provide information regarding education laws, statewide programs and/or services as well as community resources
- . Work in partnership with the OSSB Educational Assessment team

### Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM)

The Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM), is a statewide project serving students with print disabilities, including students who are blind and visually impaired. CISAM promotes excellence in educational opportunities for students with print disabilities and their families by providing access to and the availability of quality accessible educational materials (AEM), professional development/learning opportunities, and technical assistance.

#### Accessible Educational Materials (AEM)

- . Annual Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students
  - Registered students determine a per capita amount of money designated for the purchase of AEM through the American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.
- . Assistance to school districts in locating AEM
- . Accessible Materials Production Center (AMPC)
  - Production of AEM—textbooks and other core print instructional materials in alternate formats for eligible students in Ohio (braille, large print, and digital texts
  - Scanning and formatting for braille, large print, and digital texts
  - Tactile Graphics production
  - National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) implementation

#### Professional Development/Learning Opportunities

- . Professional development for parents, students and educators
- . Regional workshops
- . Online Internet Modules

#### Technical Assistance

- . Braille repair through a CISAM volunteer
- . Technical assistance to school districts



Assistive Technology