



MISSOURI SCHOOL *for the* BLIND

KNOWLEDGE • CONFIDENCE • INDEPENDENCE



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www.MSB.dese.mo.gov



Missouri School for the Blind was founded in 1851 and was the first school to introduce Braille in the United States in 1859. Since the beginning of its rich history, MSB has helped thousands of students achieve academic, vocational and personal success. We strive to help every student achieve his or her highest level of success and independence.

Missouri School for the Blind is operated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and provides services at no cost to families or school districts. MSB is dually accredited through AdvancEd's North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP). Missouri School for the Blind offers a variety of services for students who attend the school as well as students and families in districts across the state.

Centerbase Services are available for students ages 5-21. Outreach Services are available statewide for children and youth ages birth through 21.



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The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 6th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or Relay Missouri 800-735-2966.

CENTERBASE SERVICES



- K-12 Academic Programs
- Expanded Core Curriculum for Students Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
- KEYS - Short-Term Programs
- MSB LIFE
- Exploratory Summer Programs
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Technology
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CENTERBASE PROGRAMS

Missouri School for the Blind's centerbase programs fall into three major categories including academic K-12 programs, K.E.Y.S., and MSB L.I.F.E. MSB also offers unique opportunities for learning and socialization through the summer programs and special offerings such as the annual Braille Challenge.

ACADEMIC K-12 PROGRAMS

MSB offers a full schedule of academic programs in grades K-12 fully aligned with the Missouri Learning Standards and the Expanded Core Curriculum for students who are blind and visually impaired. MSB's highly qualified staff assures that our rigorous curriculum is implemented and differentiated with instructional strategies and ongoing assessments to ensure student success. MSB is dedicated to high levels of student achievement and we work to improve educational opportunities and increase the effectiveness of the programs and services provided to our students.



MSB's standards-based curriculum includes a variety of offerings in:

- English/
Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science
- Health and PE
- Practical Arts
- Fine Arts



The Expanded Core Curriculum for the Blind and Visually Impaired includes:

- Compensatory or functional academic skills (including Braille and other communication modes)
- Orientation and mobility
- Social interaction skills
- Independent living skills
- Recreation and leisure skills
- Career education
- Use of assistive technology
- Sensory efficiency skills
- Self-determination



CENTERBASE PROGRAMS



MSB KNOWLEDGE TO EMPOWER YOUR SUCCESS (K.E.Y.S.)

K.E.Y.S. is an intensive IEP driven short-term program designed to provide specific, direct instruction in the Expanded Core Curriculum, as well as individually identified areas of need for students who are blind or visually impaired. K.E.Y.S. students will attend MSB for a pre-determined period of time to develop Expanded Core Curriculum skills while keeping up with

the core curriculum. K.E.Y.S. courses include: Independent Living Skills, Orientation and Mobility, Braille, Sensory Efficiency, Transition Skills, and Computer and Assistive Technology.

MSB LEARNING INDEPENDENCE FROM EXPERIENCE (L.I.F.E.)

MSB L.I.F.E. was created to facilitate a positive beginning to the world beyond traditional high school. MSB L.I.F.E. is a transition program designed to provide qualified students with the opportunity to continue their educational experiences in an age-appropriate simulated community setting. Each day, MSB L.I.F.E. students work in three areas of transition based on their IEP-driven transition goals: employment, independent living, and education.

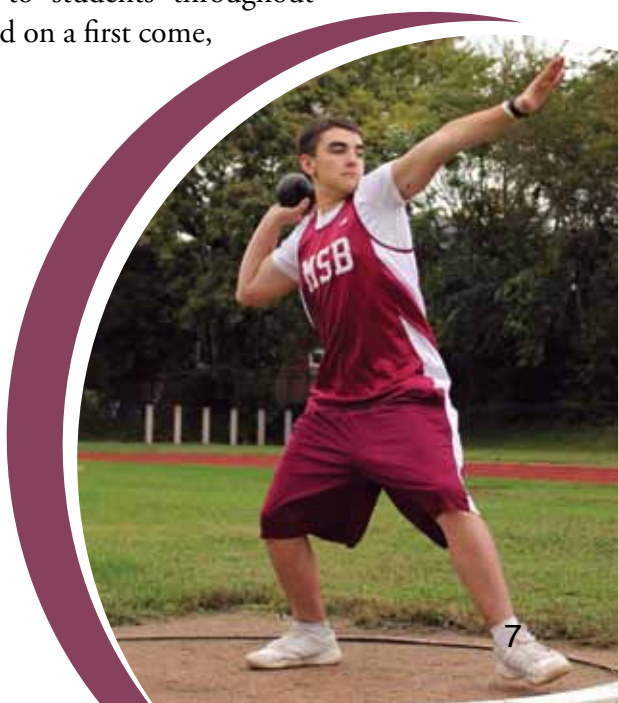
MSB L.I.F.E. allows participants to learn and practice the skills necessary to live independently through a supervised apartment-style setting. Students clean their own apartment, manage a budget, and plan and prepare their own meals using the latest assistive devices. During L.I.F.E., qualified students may benefit from college dual-enrollment, and/or work in the community, supported by an MSB job coach. Students are provided with opportunities to use newly-acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations which extend what is taught beyond the classroom into the community.

SUMMER EXPLORATIONS IN LEARNING

Through Summer Explorations in Learning, MSB seeks to provide non-traditional, high-quality, academic and functional program designed to supplement the student's regular educational experience with an emphasis on the Expanded Core Curriculum. Courses range from two to four weeks and topics vary each summer. Summer Explorations in Learning are available to students throughout the state and will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MSB offers a variety of competitive and participative athletics and extracurricular activities. MSB athletes compete within the North Central Association of Schools



CENTERBASE PROGRAMS

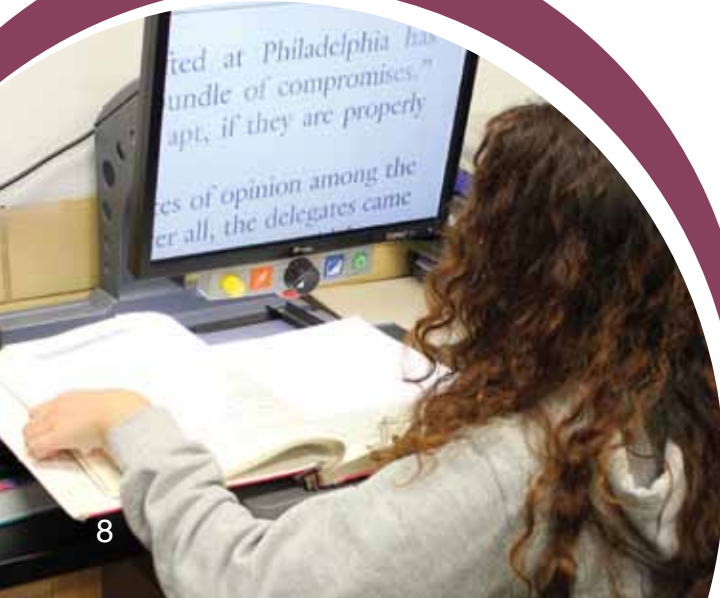
for the Blind in Track and Field, Goalball, Wrestling, Swimming, Cheerleading and Forensics. MSB also offers a variety of extracurricular activities including clubs, intramural sports, and daily academic support through our AcLabs.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

- Track and Field
- Bowling
- Skiing

CLUBS

- Junior and Senior Beta
- Horticulture
- Craft
- App Club
- High School Book Club
- Alternative Book Club
- Library Cat Club



TECHNOLOGY

Including, but not limited to:

- Screen Readers
- Text-to-Speech Software and Devices
- Audio Devices
- iPads
- SmartBoards
- Handheld Scientific Instruments
- Color Identifiers
- Money Identifiers
- Electronic Calendars
- Talking Watches



FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS

- State-of-the-Art Science and Computer Labs
- New Sensory Courtyard (2014)
- Library Media Center
- Indoor Traverse Climbing Wall
- Onsite Athletic Facilities:
 - Indoor Pool
 - Bowling Alley
 - Two Gymnasiums
 - Wrestling Room
 - Fitness Center
 - Full-Size and Cabled Tracks



CLINICAL, ANCILLARY & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (CARS)

CLINICAL AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

Clinical and Ancillary Services includes an onsite health center staffed with certified nurses, and also provides occupational, speech and physical therapies, as well as mental health services for students.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Residential Services provides students with a home-away-from-home atmosphere Sunday through Thursday. Students travel home every weekend. Residential Services also encourages the development of independent living skills such as cleaning, cooking, washing and taking care of personal hygiene needs. Students have an opportunity to participate in a number of recreational activities and outings including:

- Professional baseball, hockey and football games
- Performing Arts and Theatre Experiences
- Circus Outings
- Movie Nights
- Shopping Trips
- Game Nights
- Roller Skating



MISSOURI DEAFBLIND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project provides high quality technical assistance and support services statewide at no cost to state and local educational agencies, private programs and families of individuals with combined vision and hearing loss, age birth through 21 years. Services include:

- Assistance in the identification and referral of children and youth who are deafblind
- Professional and parent training
- Resource information and materials on loan
- Onsite technical assistance and consultation on assessment, education and employment
- Transition assistance, including person-centered planning



MISSOURI STATEWIDE PARENT INVOLVEMENT NETWORK (MoSPIN)

The Missouri Statewide Parent Involvement Network (MoSPIN) provides in-home parent training statewide at no cost to families of children, age birth to five years, who are visually impaired and who may also have other disabilities. Services provided are family-focused, involving active parent participation in the child's development. Parent advisors are provided with comprehensive training sessions on the INSITE curriculum, which is used during regularly scheduled home visits.

OUTREACH SERVICES

MISSOURI INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER (MIRC)

The Missouri Instructional Resource Center (MIRC) registers students who are legally blind and administers the Federal Quota Fund. The funds:

- are for the purchase of braille and large print texts and specialized educational materials produced by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH)
- are available to eligible students in public, charter, private, home or parochial schools and agencies statewide

Workshops and displays of APH materials provide training opportunities with these specialized products.

MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)

The Missouri School for the Blind Library Media Center (LMC) loans library materials to professionals throughout Missouri who work with students who are visually impaired. The materials that are available for loan include professional books and videos for educators, and braille library books for use by students throughout Missouri. Services for Missouri educators who work with students with visual impairments include:

- Professional Development Lending Library
- Borrow braille and print-braille books from the MSB Library
- Browse-and-borrow visits to MSB's Library Media Center
- Advice on selecting books to borrow from the MSB librarian



OUTREACH VISION EDUCATION AND ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICES

Outreach Vision Education and Orientation and Mobility Services offer assessment and technical assistance to all local and state board operated programs in Missouri. These services are intended to support programming efforts. Assessments are conducted by professionals certificated in their respective fields. Services currently being offered by a vision supervisor for children and youth, age birth to 21 years, include:

- Functional Vision Learning Media Assessments (FVLMA)
- Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Assessments
- Technical Assistance for Information and Resources

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Professional development opportunities offered by Outreach Services include coursework and a variety of workshops on topics relevant to the education of children and youth who are blind/visually impaired/deafblind. For information on current offerings, visit MSB's Web site at www.msb.dese.mo.gov.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

DONATIONS

Financial gifts to MSB are tax-deductible and can be applied to specific programs, services or funds (dedicated gifts). Monetary donations that are not dedicated and are less than \$3,000 are directed to the MSB Activity Fund. This fund helps pay for all of the things the state does not – including the cost of residential field trips, off-campus activities, clothing or other needs a student might unexpectedly have, and travel expenses for our athletic teams and clubs that travel across the Midwest for competitions.

Financial gifts that are not dedicated and are more than \$3,000 are directed to the Blind Trust Fund. This fund is for larger projects, such as capital improvements on the campus.

DONATION OF GOODS OR EQUIPMENT

The needs of our students change and we will only accept items that can be put to good use. If there is not a need, we will let you know so that someone else will be able to benefit from your generosity. Please contact the Community Relations office prior to donating goods.

Items we are currently NOT accepting:

- Used clothing
- Any equipment or devices not in working order
- Technology more than five years old
- Motor vehicles



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Giving Tree is a program for students occurring in the fall/winter. Forms are sent home with students to determine their needs and wish list items for the holidays. A list is created for each student. A person or group can choose to purchase specific items from a student's list, or can choose to "adopt" one or more students. This program culminates with the most highly anticipated event of the year – the Holiday Extravaganza. On the last day before winter break, we invite all those who participate in Giving Tree, MSB families and friends of MSB to join us for a musical program followed by gift opening.



For more information on the Giving Tree program, or other community programs that happen throughout the year, please contact the Community Relations office.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

MSB can also benefit from Box Tops for Education, Coke Rewards, Schnucks eScripts, and Target's "Take Charge of Education" program.

For more information on how to help, please contact the Community Relations office.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND MSB?

Missouri School for the Blind is a Missouri special public school, in the continuum of statewide placements for students who have a visual impairment. Students, ages 5-21, who reside in Missouri and are blind or visually impaired – including those with additional disabilities – who have not graduated from high school, are eligible for consideration for enrollment at MSB.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GO TO MSB?

There is no cost to Missouri residents to attend MSB. Transportation is provided free of charge for residential students to travel to and from their homes every weekend.

HOW DO I APPLY TO MSB?

Students must be referred to MSB by their local education agency (LEA). The first step is to contact the LEA and schedule an IEP.

WHAT DOES “LEGALLY BLIND” MEAN?

Approximately 80% of individuals with a visual impairment have some amount of vision.

Many people understand the extremes of “unimpaired vision” and “no light perception” but there are many different levels of functional vision.

Legal blindness is identified as visual acuities of less than 20/200 in the better of the two eyes with standard correction and/or visual fields constricted to 20 degrees or less.

WHAT DO THE NUMBERS “20/20” MEAN?

An individual with the visual acuity of 20/20 clearly sees an object at 20 feet that should be clearly seen at 20 feet. This is a “normal” visual acuity or unimpaired vision.

The first number indicates the testing distance – the distance between a person’s eyes and the eye chart. The second number indicates the size of “targets” on an eye chart and how largely their respective images fall on the back of the eyes on the retinas.

If an individual has the visual acuities, with standard correction of 20/200, this means that person can stand no further than 20 feet from something to see it clearly while a person with “normal” or unimpaired vision can stand up to 200 feet away and still see it clearly.



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VISION

Missouri School for the Blind has the finest comprehensive educational system for students with visual impairments in Missouri. MSB offers academics, expanded core curriculum, and extra-curricular activities. MSB provides opportunities focusing on developing post-secondary education and training, meaningful employment, and life skills for all students.

MISSION

The mission of Missouri School for the Blind is to provide quality educational services, resources, and individualized instruction, ensuring that students with visual impairments statewide achieve academic, social, employment, transition, and independent living skills empowering them to enjoy full productive lives.

BELIEFS

At MSB we believe...

- Student success is our first and foremost responsibility
- High expectations are critical to student success and are the shared responsibility of every staff member, student, family, and stakeholder
- Every student deserves a safe and high-quality learning environment in which they will be treated with dignity and respect.
- Every student has an individualized education plan based on their individual rate of learning and their assessed needs in all areas.
- Every student will be provided the opportunity to participate in community-based transition skills including educational, employment, and recreational activities.
- Statewide interagency collaboration and sharing are beneficial and valuable to everyone providing services to students who are visually impaired and their families.



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