



The OAS Update

March 2025

It's time for our monthly update for all things [Outreach Access Services](#) (OAS). March brings on a host of new events, with the annual PNWAER conference. We hope to see everyone there.

Upcoming Events:

It's an exciting time for professional development with many upcoming opportunities throughout the state.

- **Focus Forums**

- Tuesday, March 4th at 8:00 am: **Creating Student Passports to Support Transitions**
 - [Register here for Tuesday, March 4th at 8:00 am session](#)
- Thursday, March 6th at 12:00 pm: **Transitioning from B-3 to school-based services**
 - [Register here for Thursday, March 6th at 12:00 pm session](#)
- Tuesday, March 18th at 8:00 am: **PNWAER review**
 - [Register here for Tuesday, March 18th at 8:00 am session](#)
- Thursday, March 20th at 12:00 pm: **Transitioning to adult services**
 - [Register here for Thursday, March 20th at 12:00 pm session](#)



- **Beyond the Bee** - a STEM event designed for blind and low vision students and their families. The interactive session will combine abacus and mental math activities with hands-on STEM exploration, helping students build confidence and skills in mathematics and science.
 - Vancouver – 3/1/25
 - Spokane – 3/22/25
 - Bellingham – 4/27/25
 - [Register for Beyond the Bee](#)

- **PNWAER Conference – Vancouver, WA – March 13th-14th.**
 - OAS team members will be presenting six sessions at our annual conference, including:
 - Beyond the Bee: Math Activities and Games
 - Tactile Literacy for Unique Learners
 - Preparing for your WA State UEB Certification
 - Washington State Testing Accommodations for Low Vision Learners
 - Technology Ergonomics for Blind and Low Vision Learners
 - Eyes on AI 2025
 - [Register for the 2025 PNWAER Conference](#)

- **Blind/Low Vision Round-ups** – Regional gatherings of vision professionals that focus on resources, collaboration, and training.
 - Spokane: 3/21 @ Joya Child and Family Center, 8:30-12:00
 - Snohomish: 4/28 @ Snohomish School District, 12:30-4:00
 - Wenatchee: 5/9 @ NCESD, 8:30-12:00
 - [Register for a Round-up](#)



Access Technology Requests

The OAS Access Tech team is ready to help you with any access technology-related question you may have. We support all brands and types of AT for blind and low vision learners.

- [Access technology assistance request form](#)

Teacher-to-Teacher Collaboration

OAS is teaming up with teachers from across the state. If you're seeking to connect with a fellow vision professional or need a second perspective, schedule Teacher-to-Teacher collaboration time with us. With decades of combined experience across a wide range of specialties, our team is here to support you.

- [Request form for teacher-to-teacher collaboration](#)

Mentorship & Grant Program

If you're new to the field, new to Washington, or are looking to join the fascinating and in-demand world of teaching blind and low vision learners, we are here for you. We offer direct support, resources, and even grant funding.

- **2025 Grants – apply now!** Our 2025 application window is live until April 1st. If you're a currently certified Washington State teacher, this is your big chance to join our fabulous and fast-growing field of teaching blind and low vision learners. Our grant program provides both tuition and mentorship. It is a partnership with the [Stephen F. Austin University Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments training program](#). This 21-credit hour program can earn you an endorsement in as little as one year.
- [Apply for the SFASU Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments Program](#)
- [Questions? contact Joe Dlugo at the Mentorship & Grant Program](#)



What is the OAS Team Excited About This Month?

- **Joe Dlugo (TBLVL/COMS/CATIS - Olympia):** Of all the months of the year to work in this field, March is my favorite. The transition to spring (much more tolerable O&M weather) and getting to see teachers from across the state at our annual PNWAER conference are what I look forward to the most. It's also an exciting month to meet and assist potential new teachers as we get closer to the application deadline for our state grant program.
- **Krista Bulger (TBLVL/CATIS - Vancouver):** I'm excited about the FREE teacher resources available at DayofAI.org. These materials were created by faculty at MIT to introduce artificial intelligence concepts to students of all ages. Each lesson includes an educator guide, teacher slides, and student resources. You can check out the curriculum at DayOfAI.org/curriculum (You will have to register to first!)

Here is the slideshow for 5-7 year olds: [What is AI? For Early Elementary Slides](#)