

Core Purpose

To empower blind and low vision individuals to reach their full potential



Core Values

Student Centered
Equity
Accessibility
Relationships
Continuous Improvement

Our 15-Year Big Goal - by 2035
Every blind and low vision student in Washington has the supports and services they need to succeed

Version 1.1 September 2020

Our Staff

- Are highly qualified and trained in the specialty of blindness and low vision, including additional disabilities and deafblindness.
- We are a community of resources and trusted advisors for our field.
- We continually seek to increase our knowledge, skills and abilities through new technologies and academic achievement.

The Clients We Serve

- Infants through young adults who are blind or low vision, including those with additional disabilities or are deafblind.
- Families and caregivers.
- Education service providers and community partners.

The Programs & Services We Offer

- Our programs are provided across a diverse continuum of service options to meet the unique needs of individuals who are blind or low vision including those with additional disabilities or are deafblind.
- The scope of services and supports provided are determined by each individual student's needs and opportunity gaps.

How We Operate

- We embrace a statewide approach to our work and cooperate as an inter-dependent set of departments to achieve our shared vision and goals.
- We are empowered to innovate with the freedom to adjust as needed to provide the highest quality services and supports every day.
- We offer an inclusive and supportive service model that respects the unique characteristics of the individual.
- We collaborate with families, caregivers, education service providers and community partners to achieve positive outcomes for those we serve.
- We promote innovation by using new technologies to meet both present and future student needs.

The Outcomes We Help Create

- Students gain skills and confidence to lead their own life's pursuits.
- All families, caregivers, education service providers and community partners are aware of the range of specialized services and opportunities and how to access them.

Goal #1

Identify statewide need for blind and low vision services

Goal #2

Expand awareness of and access to blind and low vision services

Goal #3

Expand capacity to improve services for all students

- **Objective #1:** Establish an accurate statewide count of students who are blind or low vision (June 2021).
- **Objective #2:** Identify the current inventory of blind and low vision services provided or accessed by educational partners (June 2022).
- **Objective #3:** Identify gaps in blind and low vision services at statewide and regional levels to provide necessary resources and supports (January 2023).

- **Objective #1:** Implement a plan to address awareness gaps among families for accessing services (June 2021).
- **Objective #2:** Implement an evidence-based marketing and communication strategy to continue to increase awareness among key stakeholder groups (June 2022).

- **Objective 1:** Implement WSSB staff development plan that leverages staff strengths and addresses identified gaps (June 2021).
- **Objective 2:** Design a framework for coordinated system of services and supports for blind and low vision students statewide (June 2023).

- **Strategy 1:** Examine existing data sources to determine reliability as well as opportunities to build a complete data set of all blind and low vision students in Washington.
- **Strategy 2:** Develop methods/process to access incomplete data from existing sources relating to both eligibility (for special education as a blind or low vision student) and access to specialist services (TVI, O&M).
- **Strategy 3:** Design and implement a communication plan to discuss the outcomes of our data analysis efforts with identified stakeholders.

- **Strategy 1:** Mobilize internal and external resources to develop a comprehensive marketing and awareness-building campaign targeting key stakeholders.
- **Strategy 2:** Organize quarterly informational educational services fair for families of students who are blind and low vision.
- **Strategy 3:** Create media that highlights all programs that WSSB offers (Deafblind services, ORC, on-campus programs, Birth-3, Assistive Technology, LIFTT, Outreach, etc.).

- **Strategy 1:** Identify strengths, interests, and needs as they relate to increasing the knowledge and skill of all WSSB staff to provide and/or support the education of blind and low vision students.
- **Strategy #2:** Adopt an anti-ableist framework and provide training that counters deficit mindsets, implicit bias, and micro-aggressions towards blind people and others living with disability.
- **Strategy #3:** Inventory service delivery models/systems (specific to Blind/low vision and/or low-incidence disabilities) currently utilized and evaluate their potential for implementation statewide.

WSSB Strategic Plan Notes:

- 'Students' are defined as birth through 21 years old
- 'Statewide' defined as all service providers in the state including WSSB staff, outreach & external providers
- Capacity = the knowledge, skills, abilities & attitudes (to better equip the team, department or school versus individuals)