

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

HB Section(s): 2.300

Blind Student Literacy

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Blind Student Literacy

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Success-Ready Students & Workplace Development

1b. What does this program do?

This appropriation funds three contracted Blind Skills Specialist (BSS) positions and the administrative functions related to the Blind Task Force per RSMo Sections 162.1130-1142. Blind Skills Specialists provide training and consultation for blind and visually impaired students, training for teachers, and resources for families. This includes but is not limited to:

- Program and placement recommendations
- Professional development/in-service training to educators, parents, and other stakeholders
- Direct consultation (braille instruction, orientation and mobility training, etc.)
- Interpretation of evaluation results during IEP meetings
- Assessment and instructional techniques
- Statewide assessment data reviews
- Support the application and needs of appropriate technology for students with visual impairments
- Provide agency referrals

The Blind Task Force develops goals and objectives to guide the improvement of special education, related services, vocational training, transition from school to work, rehabilitation services, independent living and employment outcomes for students with blindness and visual impairments. Funding is provided for travel, lodging and meals of committee members.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

Measure	North Region (1 FTE)	SW Region (2 FTE)
Number of School Consultations/Technical Assistance	24	45
Number of Student Assessments Performed	8	86
Number of IEP Team Meetings Attended	1	11

NOTE: BSS are housed at Missouri State University (2 FTE) and Truman State University (1 FTE). Numbers decreased significantly due to COVID.

Measure	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 Proj	FY22 Proj	FY23 Proj
Number of Students with Visual Impairments Statewide	443	447	503	513	523	534

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Blind Skills Specialists provide multiple trainings and professional development opportunities throughout the year, including:

- Literacy Strategies for Students With Cortical Visual Impairments
- Introduction to the Unified English Braille Code
- Introduction to Braille
- Braille Challenge
- Low Vision Clinics
- Expanded Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments
- How to Prepare a Student with a Visual Impairment in the Classroom
- Parent Seminar on Visual Impairments
- Supporting a Student with Vision Loss in the Classroom
- Designing Instruction for a Student with Vision Loss
- MAP Guide to Accommodations Presentation
- Designing Curriculum for Students with Vision Loss
- Active Learning for Children with Visual Impairments and Severe Disabilities
- Building Active Learning Spaces
- Transition to Middle School
- Determining Assistive Technology Needs of Students with Visual Impairments
- Vision Professional Development Series
- Functional Vision Assessment/Learning Media Assessment
- When You Have a Student with a Visual Impairment
- INSITE and VIISA

2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

VIISA Course Evaluation

100% agree the session was evidence-based and referenced current research of visually impaired students.

100% agree materials were relevant to the needs of team members serving visually impaired students.

100% agree the session provided useful content and material and will be used by the team member serving visually impaired students.

100% agree the session provided information that will make a difference in the work with visually impaired students.

Training and Support Evaluation

100% agree the BSS provides on-going support to schools with visually impaired students in order to increase students access to general education curriculum and performance on state assessments.

100% agree the BSS provides training in assessment and instruction techniques to increase the knowledge and skill level of personnel and parents of visually impaired students.

99% agree the BSS provides information about regional and statewide resources for services and training.

INSITE Training Evaluation

Participants scored the overall workshop rating as 5 out of 5.

Comments from the Hand in Hand Course

"The task analysis was useful in that it brought awareness to the steps involved in everyday activities that may seem simple for us, but may not be for others."

"Vitality/Camp Abilities information was very relevant for many students. Increasing movement/motor activities is essential for lifelong fitness and health."

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2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

Measure	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 Proj	FY22 Proj	FY23 Proj
Number of Blind/Visually Impaired Students Who Reached Age 21 Without Attaining a High School Diploma	0	2	1	0	0	0
Statewide Blind/Visually Impaired Students Graduation Rate (6 Yr. Adjusted Cohort Rate)	82.1%	92.9%	96.0%	97.0%	97.9%	98.9%

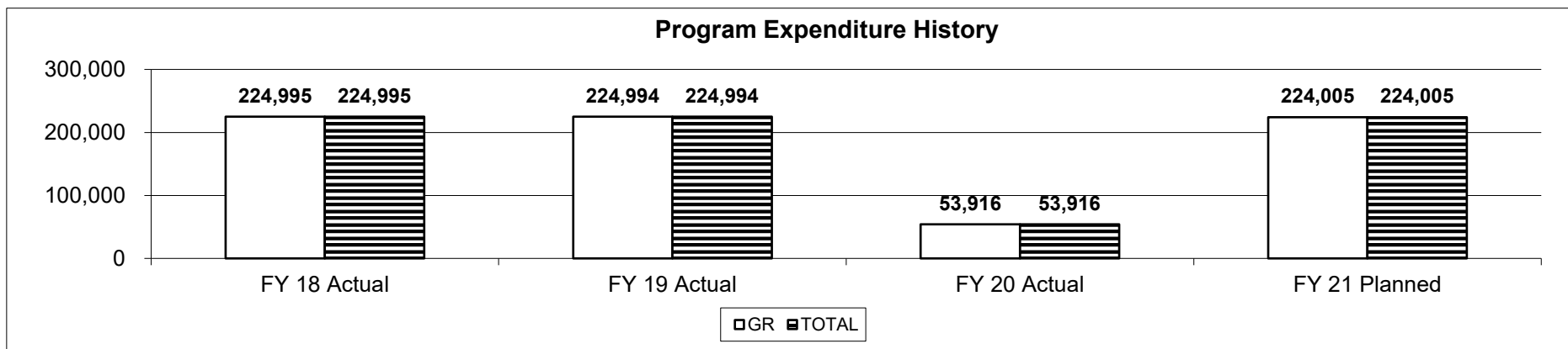
NOTE: This chart shows students who are blind/visually impaired are graduating successfully.

2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

Measure	FTE
FTE of Blind Skills Specialists Outlined in Statute (RSMo 162.1130) (1 for each RPDC region) - <i>not enough funding for all FTE</i>	9
FTE of Blind Skills Specialists based on Appropriated Funds (3 contracted FTE)	3
Statewide Number of Blind/Visually Impaired Students Statewide	503
Average Number of Blind/Visually Impaired Students per Blind Skills Specialist	168

NOTE: This chart shows Blind Skills Specialist on average may serve up to 160+ students at a time given there are only 3 funded specialists out of the 9 mandated FTE.

3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



NOTE: The FY21 planned expenditures amount includes governor's reserve amounts.

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4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

RSMo Sections 162.1130 - 162.1142

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

No.

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.