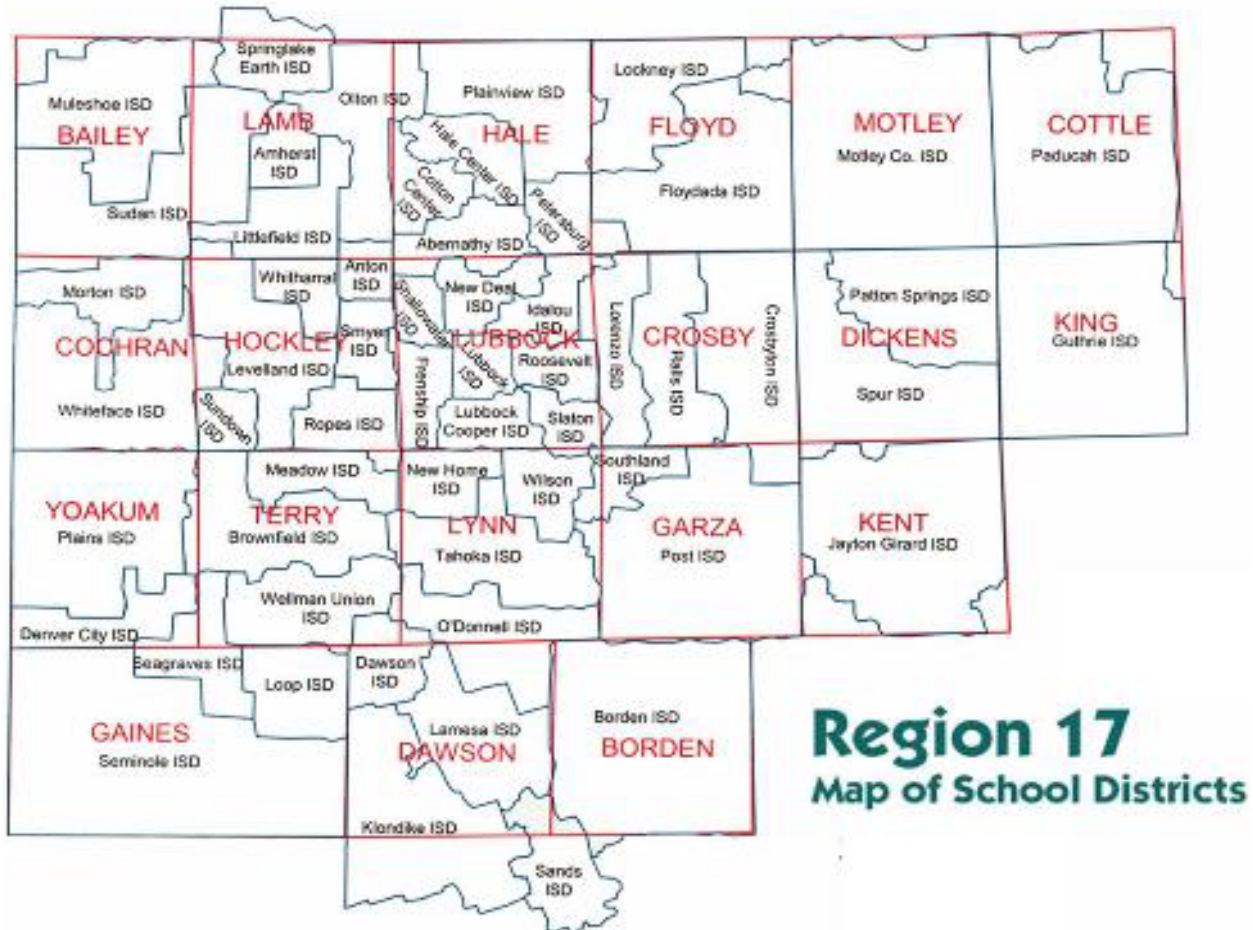


Resources for People with Visual Impairments



Revised 2020

1111 W Loop 289, Lubbock

806.281.5712

**Resources for People with Visual Impairments
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Region 17 Education Service Center

1111 West Loop 289
Lubbock, Texas 79416
806.281.5712 or 806.281.5701

www.esc17.net

Student Support Services Component
Supplemental Services for Students with Visual Impairment

Identified students and teachers of students with visual impairments have access to the Supplemental Services for Students with Visual Impairments (SSVI) for services and for equipment determined educationally necessary.

Child Find

Child Find is an ongoing process of locating students with disabilities for special education services. **Region 17 ESC contacts for Child Find** are Elizabeth Archer earcher@esc17.net and Anna Phillips aphillips@esc17.net.

Texas Education Agency

1701 North Congress
Austin, Texas 78701-1494
512.463.9734

www.tea.state.tx.us

The Agency is responsible for the public education of all students in the State. The Agency works with local schools to see that all public education law, rules, and regulations are followed. Parents and teachers should exhaust local remedies before contacting the Agency with questions or problems.

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

1100 West 45th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3494
512.454.8631 or 800.872.5273

www.tsbvi.edu

Residential school serving students, ages six to 21 years, who are blind, visually impaired, or deafblind. Annual Review/Dismissal (ARD) Committees must determine the specialized services related to the visual impairment for the student in short term or long-term programs.

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach Services

512.206.9242
www.tsbvi.edu/outreach

Outreach services provide training and technical assistance to parents and professionals for students who are blind, visually impaired, or deafblind.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Programs

Region 17 is served by three (3) Early Childhood Intervention programs. Services depend on the needs of the child, aged birth through two years, and the needs of the family. Services for eligible children may include physical, occupational, and speech therapy; assessments; activities to develop cognitive, social/emotional, and self-help skills; adaptive equipment; and, transportation. Families are served through case management, training, counseling, and parent support groups.

1. Central Plains ECI

Central Plains Center
2700 Yonkers
Plainview, Texas 79072
806.291.4416
<https://centralplains.org/services/eci>

Region 17 Counties Served: Bailey, Floyd, Hale, Lamb, and Motley

2. ECI DEBT Program

Lubbock ISD
1628 19th Street, East Building Room 221
Lubbock, Texas 79401-4895
806.219.0500 fax 806.766.1286
<https://www.lubbockisd.org/domain/1713>

Region 17 Counties Served: Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Gaines, Garza, Hockley, Kent, Lubbock, Terry, and Yoakum

3. Little Lives ECI

West Texas Centers
1104 Henderson
Sweetwater, Texas 79556
325.236.6821 or 800.852.2193
https://www.wtcmhmr.org/poc/view_doc.php?type=doc&id=41421

Region 17 Counties Served: Borden, Cottle, and King

**Special Education Shared Services Arrangements (SSA)
and
School Districts' Special Education Departments**

Current School District SpEd Dept and SSA information in Region 17 is found at <https://www.esc17.net/page/admin.district>.

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, RESOURCES

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)– TX HHSC

P.O. Box 149030, Mail Code W358
Austin, Texas 78714 – 9030
855.937.2372

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/aging/long-term-care/aging-disability-resource-center>

ADRC helps people in all 254 counties in the state to cut through the confusing maze of funding sources, multiple intake systems, and eligibility processes.

All Blind Children of Texas (ABCTX)

1100 W 45th Street
Austin, Texas 78756
512.206.9234

<http://www.abctx.org/>

A Texas nonprofit organization supporting blind and visually impaired children, their families, and their teachers since 2004.

American Council of the Blind (ACB)

1703 N Beauregard Street, Suite 420
Alexandria, Virginia 22311
202.467.5081 or 800.424.8666

<https://www.acb.org/>

ACB strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life for all blind and visually impaired people. Many resources are listed.

American Diabetes Association (ADA)

8008 Slide Road, Suite 12-A
Lubbock, Texas 79424
806.794.0691 or 888.DIABETES
www.diabetes.org

ADA is a resource for understanding and managing all aspects of diabetes.

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

1401 South Clark Street, Suite 730
Arlington, Virginia 22202
202.469.6831
<https://www.afb.org/>

AFB's mission is to create a world of no limits for people who are blind or visually impaired, through mobilizing leaders, advancing understanding, and championing impactful policies and practices using research and data. AFB is also a source for educational materials, aids and appliances. See catalogue, *Products for People with Vision Problems*.

American Printing House for the Blind (APH)

1839 Frankfort Avenue / P.O. Box 6085
Louisville, Kentucky 40206-0085
502.895.2405
www.aph.org

A source for publications and educational aids, APH publishes a catalogue in both print and Braille. Teachers of students with VI can order materials and devices.

Blind Children's Center

4120 Marathon Street
Los Angeles, California 90029
323.664.2153
www.blindcntr.org

BCC offers a program of diversified services which meets the special needs of blind and partially sighted children, their parents and siblings. The educational correspondence program offers useful print materials and guides for teachers and families.

Blind Children’s Vocational Discovery & Development Program (BCP)

Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC) – *Blind Children’s Program*
6302 Iola Avenue
Lubbock, Texas 79424
806.797.8870

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/blind-visually-impaired/blind-childrens-vocational-discovery-development-program>

BCP provides information and support for children who are blind or visually impaired. A blind children's specialist from the BCP works with each child and family to create a service plan tailored to the child's needs and circumstances and develops along with the child. Children ages birth to 22 years who live in Texas and have vision impairment may be eligible for services. BCP services focus on the child’s needs outside of school.

Bookshare – A Benetech Initiative

480 South California Avenue
Palo Alto California 94306
650.352.0198

<https://www.bookshare.org/home>

Read your way! Bookshare provides ebooks for people with reading barriers. Bookshare® is FREE for U.S. qualifying students of any age and schools through an award from OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs, USDE).

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center (CCRC) - TWC

4800 North Lamar
Austin, Texas 78756
512.377.0300

<https://twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/criss-cole-rehabilitation-center>

CCRC is an innovative, residential vocational rehabilitation training facility that serves adults who are legally blind by helping them learn alternative techniques to prepare for, find or retain employment, attend a college, university or trade school, and live independently in the community.

Deafblind Multi-Handicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT)

<http://dbmat-tx.org/> Click on **Contact Us** tab.

Ask for information on a family support specialist for the Lubbock area. The mission of DBMAT is to promote and improve the quality of life for all Texans who are deaf-blind multihandicapped. We support the establishment of educational, rehabilitative, vocational and independent living opportunities of these individuals for all ages.

Disability Rights Texas – formerly Advocacy Inc.

4747 South Loop 289, Suite 120

Lubbock, Texas 79424

806.765.7794 or 800.252.9108

www.disabilityrightstx.org

DRT mission is to help people with disabilities understand and exercise their rights under the law, ensuring their full and equal participation in society.

FamilyConnect

Email: connectcenter@aph.org

800.232.5463

<https://familyconnect.org/get-connected/about-familyconnect/>

A service offered by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), *FamilyConnect* is an online, multimedia community created to give parents of visually impaired children a place to support each other, share stories and concerns, and link to local resources.

Hadley – a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

700 Elm Street

Winnetka, Illinois 60093-2554

847.446.8111 or Toll Free 800.323.4238

<https://www.hadley.edu/Default.asp>

The mission of Hadley is to create personalized learning opportunities that empower adults with vision loss or blindness to thrive – at home, at work, and in their communities. Courses, materials, instructional videos, and resources are available.

Learning Ally

20 Roszel Rd.

Princeton, New Jersey 08540

800.221.4792

<https://learningally.org/>

Learning Ally is a leading nonprofit education solutions organization that transforms the lives of struggling learners by delivering proven solutions that help students reach their potential. They provide audiobooks and support for a variety of needs.

Libraries –

City of Lubbock Public Libraries

- Godeke Branch Library 5034 Frankford 806.775.3362
- Groves Branch Library 5520 19th Street 806.767.3733
- Mahon Library 1306 9th Street 806.775.2835
- Patterson Branch Library 1836 Parkway Drive 806.767.3300

<https://ci.lubbock.tx.us/departments/library/>

Large Print books and Audio books are available. Access ebooks and audiobooks by downloading the Libby App or going to

<https://lubbock.overdrive.com>. Also available is an expanded selection of online resources.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

1201 Brazos St.
Austin, TX 78701

Mail: P.O. Box 12927
Austin, TX 78711

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/>

Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

1155 Market Street, 10th floor
San Francisco, California 94103
415.431.1481

<http://lighthouse-sf.org/>

Lighthouse promotes the independence, equality and self-reliance of people who are blind or have low vision. They offer blindness skills training and relevant services such as access to employment, education, government, information, recreation, transportation and the environment.

MHMR – StarCare Specialty Health System

Sunrise Canyon Complex
1950 Aspen Ave.
Lubbock, Texas 79404
806.740.1421

<https://www.starcarelubbock.org/>

StarCare, a state-designated mental health & mental retardation authority, provides access to a diverse array of specialty healthcare services that support and empower people as valued members of the community.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
410.659.9314

<https://www.nfb.org/>

NFB is dedicated to supporting the blind to build the lives they want.

Newsletters / Periodicals

- **Active Learning** <http://www.activelearningspace.org/>
- **BVI Bridge Smore** <https://www.smore.com/ftd0n-bvi-bridge>
- **TX SenseAbilities** <https://www.tsbvi.edu/tx-senseabilities>
(previously *SeeHear* 1997–2006) A publication about visual impairment and deafblindness for families and professionals. Available in English and Spanish, and in audio files.

Perkins School for the Blind and Perkins Library

175 N Beacon Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
617.924.3434

<https://www.perkins.org/about>

The Library distributes accessible books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs and more, at no cost to patrons served. Perkins also distributes assistive technologies like refreshable braille displays while providing a website that enables people to download accessible reading material.

Resources for Parents & Teachers of Blind & Visually Impaired Children

Offered by American Council of the Blind, Inc.

<https://www.acb.org/resources-parents-and-teachers-blind-and-visually-impaired-children>

Seedlings Braille Books for Children

P.O. Box 51924
Livonia, Michigan 48151-5924
734.427.8552 or 800.777.8552

<http://www.seedlings.org/>

Offering over 1,300 low-cost children's books in braille; 540+ in UEB!

Talking Book Program (TBP) of the Texas State Library

1201 Brazos Street
Austin, Texas 78701
512.463.5458 or 800.252.9605

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html>

TBP provides free library services to qualifying Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities.

Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) of Texas – formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

HHSC Benefits Office – 34th
5806 34th St.
Lubbock, TX 79407
806.791.7500

HHSC Benefits Office - Parkway
1716 Parkway Dr.
Lubbock, TX 79403
806.744.7632

<https://www.tanf.us/tx/lubbock>

State program offering temporary assistance to families in need who qualify.

Texas Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (TAPVI)

<https://www.tapvi.org/>

TAPVI's mission is to connect, inspire and empower families affected by visual impairment through parent connections, support and activities.

Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC) – See Blind Children's Program (BCP)

Texas Tech University – The Virginia Murray Sowell Center for Research and Education in Sensory Disabilities

TTU College of Education
3002 18th St.
Lubbock, Texas 79409
806.742.2377

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/sowell/>

Research and graduate courses in Orientation and Mobility, Visual Impairments, and Deafblindness.

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) – Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

2002 W Loop 289
Lubbock, Texas 79407
806.765.5038

<https://twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-youth-students>

TWC-VR serves youth and students with disabilities to help prepare for post-secondary education and employment opportunities. Services are eligibility and need based. A student with VI may qualify as early as age 14 years.

Websites – resources especially for teaching & parenting students with VI

- **Active Learning Space**
<http://www.activelearningspace.org/>
- **Paths To Literacy**
<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/about-site>
- **Special Education *Livebinder*** by Region 17 ESC Student Support Services
<http://www.livebinders.com/b/2647320>
- **Stay-At-Home Activities for Children with Visual Impairments**
<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/> Search *Stay-at-Home Activities for ...*
- **Teaching Students with Visual Impairment ... for Parents too!**
<https://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/>
<https://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/online-parent-resources.html>
- **Virtual Learning Resources for VI**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AMLgu57tYtBcclqf_dkEnl01qoyBpRujHNbu0jKPYzg/edit#gid=0

LOW VISION CLINIC

**Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC)
Low Vision Clinic – Department of Ophthalmology
Texas Tech Physicians Medical Pavilion
3601 4th Street, 2nd floor
Lubbock, Texas 79430
806.743.2020**

<https://www.texastechphysicians.com/lubbock/ophthalmology/default.aspx>

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT A LOW VISION EVALUATION FOR A STUDENT WITH VI, PLEASE CONTACT THE STUDENT’S TEACHER OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED (TVI) IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

- If you do not know how to contact the student’s TVI, you may get that information by calling one of the following:
 - o your school’s Special Education Director’s office
 - o Region 17 Education Service Center, VI Specialist
806.281.5712 or 806.281.5701

Important information about cost of a low vision evaluation:

TTUHSC Ophthalmology listed above is the low vision clinic with whom Region 17 ESC contracts for low vision evaluations. If there has been a referral for a student’s low vision evaluation that Region 17 ESC is to fund, the evaluation must be completed by the low vision eye specialist at TTUHSC Low Vision Clinic. The cost for any evaluation completed at any other low vision clinic will not be covered by Region 17 ESC.

Process for Low Vision Evaluation (LVE)

1. TVI evaluates student and, based on results, may recommend an LVE to student’s ARD Committee; typically, once every 3 years.
2. ARD Committee makes a decision about TVI’s LVE recommendation.
3. If approved, the TVI completes and submits an LVE referral form, with required SpEd Director signature, to Region 17 ESC Support Staff for VI.
4. Region 17 ESC Support Staff for VI makes an LVE appointment for the student and notifies both the student’s family and the student’s TVI of the appointment. CHANGES in appointment date/time MUST be made by the student’s family directly with the Ophthalmology Office.
5. Family takes student to appointment. TVI typically attends appointment.
6. An LVE Report is sent to the student’s family and TVI usually a few weeks after appointment. TVI follows the Report recommendations for school.
7. Region 17 orders recommended low vision devices; NO glasses/contacts.




VI AND O&M PREPARATION IN TEXAS

Information on how to become certified in visual impairments or orientation and mobility

What is VI Preparation in Texas?

Certification to work with students with visual impairments is available regardless of where you live in Texas. Training is provided through Texas Tech University and Stephen F. Austin State University.

For more information about VI and O&M Preparation in Texas, you can contact:

<p>General Information</p>  <p>Contact Mary Shore, COMS Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired 1100 W 45th St Austin, TX 78756 512.206.9156 shorem@tsbvi.edu</p> <p>Website http://www.tsbvi.edu/how-do-i-become-a-vi-professional</p>	<p>Stephen F Austin State University</p>  <p>Contacts Dr. Shannon Darst (TVI) 512.206.9463 (TSBVI) 936.468.1173 darstd@sfasu.edu -or- DJ Dean, COMS Stephen F Austin State University 936.468.1142 djdean@sfasu.edu</p> <p>Website http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/123.asp</p>	<p>Texas Tech University</p>  <p>Contacts Rona Pogrund, PhD (VI) 512.206.9213 (TSBVI) 806.252.8026 (TTU) -or- Nora Griffin-Shirley, PhD (O&M) 806.834.0225 n.griffin-shirley@ttu.edu -or- Phoebe Okungu, Ph.D. (DeafBlindness) 806.834.0286 phoebe.okungu@ttu.edu</p> <p>Website http://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/sowell/index.php</p>
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