

Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Student Support Services



Our Vision: It's All About the Kids!

Overview

It is the mission of Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) to have programs and interventions that promote the support of the students and their families. Some of the support services at ASBVI include prevention, intervention, transition and follow-up services for students and families. Our student support services professionals provide direct services for all children birth to age 21 who are experiencing problems that create barriers to learning. Direct services are provided by means such as education, counseling, consultation and individual assessment. In addition, student support services personnel provide in-service training, parent education, community collaboration and carry out student service program management. Student support services are a vital part of comprehensive school program success.

School Counselor

ASBVI employs a full-time counselor who works with all students on the campus. She offers a variety of special and general services to all students that include individual advisement, small group counseling, classroom activities, and presentations to staff. She is heavily involved with engaging parents and the local community in order to support each student's academic, college, career, personal and interpersonal development. The counselor is a facilitator between the parents, teachers and the student in matters concerning the student's goals, abilities, and any areas needing improvement. She is a primary resource in helping students to structure post-high school plans and encourage them to take advantage of the opportunities and support available in school and in the community.

Social Worker

All ASBVI students have access to the services provided by the social worker. She works closely with families, school counselors, psychologists, teachers, and administrators to ensure the safety and well-being of all students. Social Workers are members of Crisis Teams and mental health service teams; they offer counseling individually, in small groups, and through classroom instruction.

The social worker coordinates with other mental health service providers such as Chenal Family Therapy, Methodist Family Health, and Pinnacle Point to work with families, community organizations such as Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure a comprehensive and individualized approach to the social emotional well-being of all students.

Extended School Year (ESY)

Extended school year (ESY) are services provided beyond the length of the regular school year as described in the IEP and is provided at no cost to the parents. Eligibility for ESY must be determined each year for individual students who may be eligible to receive these services.

Orientation and Mobility

The goal of orientation and mobility (O&M) instruction is to enable students to travel safely, efficiently and as independently as possible in different environments such as the home, school and community. To achieve this goal, instruction may be provided in the following areas: concept development, motor development, sensory development, visual skills, social skills, techniques of orientation and mobility, and use of devices.

Braille and Assistive Technology

Braille is a system of reading and writing that uses embossed (raised) dots. Braille characters are formed by using different combinations of six dots. These dots are arranged in a pattern called a braille cell which is two dots across and three dots down.

Assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability.

Expanded Core Curriculum

At ASBVI all students have access to the Expanded Core Curriculum. The Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) is the body of knowledge and skills that are needed by students with visual impairments due to their unique disability-specific needs. Students with visual impairments need the expanded core curriculum in addition to the core academic curriculum of general education.

Low Vision Clinic

ASBVI has a Low Vision Clinic that assesses the levels of vision of each student and provides recommendations for optical and technological devices.