

# Mississippi School for the Blind (MSB)

## 2003-2004

<b>I. Instructional Services</b>	
K-12 net enrollment	80
Early Intervention enrollment	45
Instructional training provided	Braille, low vision, orientation and mobility, daily living skills, and used of computers with adaptive technology as well as other required and elected courses offered by accredited public schools in the state.
Standardized tests administered through MDE's state assessment plan	FLE: 2 students tested MCT: 28 students tested in grades 2-8 SATP: 5 students tested 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Writing: 7 students tested 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Writing: 2 students tested
Mississippi School for the Blind Accreditation	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) MSB was recognized for 25 years of consecutive accreditation.
Mississippi School for the Blind Memberships	Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA), South Central Association of Schools for the Blind (SCASB), Council of the Schools for the Blind (COSB), Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)
Other programs in which students participated	Approximately 37% of all junior and senior high students participated in at least one athletic activities. 34% of junior/senior high school students enrolled in choir. 54% of junior/senior high school students enrolled in band.
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) continued with its second year of three distributions of free books for all students.</li> <li>❖ Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) – Reading for the first 15 minutes of each day continued.</li> <li>❖ Mississippi School for the Blind continued its own version of the “AR” program through Supplemental Learning/Reading Program (SLRP). Students read books, write reports on those books, discuss the book report, and earn points toward prizes.</li> <li>❖ Mississippi School for the Blind continued “Listening Ears” for the second year. Students read at least two times each</li> </ul>

Curriculum Continued	<p>week to a volunteer listener.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Students continued to receive math assistance, when needed, through the use of math tutors.</li> <li>❖ Utilization of college students to serve as science laboratory assistants continued.</li> <li>❖ Master Braille Cell – An ongoing professional Development designed for instructional staff to acquire and/or improve Braille skills.</li> <li>❖ Fourth annual science and reading fairs were held.</li> <li>❖ Outstanding Performance of State Tests (OPST) program was in its second year of operations. This program was initiated to help prepare students attending Mississippi School for the Blind for the MCT and SAT in a level-oriented, fun practice session as test taking skills are reviewed.</li> <li>❖ The Achievement in Character Excellence (ACE) program was developed to increase students’ understanding and implementation of various positive character traits.</li> <li>❖ Social Studies Significant Summaries (S4) was initiated. S4 is a program to stimulate interest in current events.</li> <li>❖ Core Curriculum Committee remains a very valuable tool to help in the evaluation of and planning for curriculum needs.</li> </ul>
<b>II. Comprehensive Home-based Intervention Program (CHIP)</b>	
Eligibility	Visually impaired children from birth to age five.
Number of children served	45 children residing in 36 counties.
Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Teachers are specially trained in both the needs of visually impaired children, as well as the needs of young children.</li> <li>❖ Services are primarily home-based with the ultimate goal of preparing children for enrollment in appropriate classroom learning environments.</li> <li>❖ Specific developmental needs of each child are addressed and training directed in methods appropriate for enhancing each child’s overall development is provided for parents.</li> <li>❖ Technology continues to remain a valuable instructional tool for some of the instructional process.</li> <li>❖ 18 parents and children served during three Saturdays in the fall with 24 parents and children served during a parent weekend during the spring.</li> </ul>
Transition services	Approximately, six transition meetings were scheduled for children enrolling in their local school districts and the Mississippi School for the Blind.

<b>III. Low Vision Clinic (LVC)</b>	
Scope	The Low Vision Clinic serves visually impaired students ages birth to 21 of Mississippi, regardless of their educational setting, free of charge on Wednesdays during the school year.
Services Provided	160+ students not enrolled at MSB received low vision services, including evaluations, written reports, and in some cases, loaner low vision aids.
<b>IV. Mississippi Instructional Resources Center (MIRC)</b>	
Purpose	Serves as a repository for Braille and large print textbooks and other specialized learning aids for students enrolled in schools across the state.
Materials	Braille and large print textbook and other specialized learning aids.
Number served	245 students received approximately 950 Braille and large print textbooks.
<b>V. Residential Services</b>	
Students receiving services	Approximately 65% of students enrolled at Mississippi School for the Blind received residential education services in two dorms for males, two dorms for females, and the independent living house.
Services provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Residential education staff members received on-going professional development including initial and re-certification training in the MANDT System, transportation safety, basic Braille and other communication skills, rights and responsibilities of staff and students, and computer applications.</li> <li>❖ Elementary students continued their second year in Top Soccer as a part of their extended day program.</li> <li>❖ 34 staff members in the Residential Education Department work with students, staff, and parents to help ensure that students experience a home-like environment.</li> <li>❖ Staff members incorporated more student input to design the activities that are implemented during the extended school day. Some of the activities included Top Soccer, Finer Things (character, manners, etiquette) Program, movies, athletic events, community events, shopping, and campus-based recreational activities.</li> </ul>

<b>VI. Outreach Program</b>	
Number served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Approximately 275 people were served.</li> <li>❖ 24 educators representing 11 different schools or school districts and agencies participated in the Outreach Professional Development programs offered.</li> </ul>
Training Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Services were provided through tours, informational training, phone conferences, in-service training programs, and conferences.</li> <li>❖ Continued monthly Outreach Professional Development program designed to expose participants to information about visual impairments, curricula, accommodations/ modifications, special educational concerns for visually impaired children, orientation and mobility, low vision assessments and training, and guidelines for obtaining Braille and large print materials.</li> <li>❖ Hosted the Annual Conference of Agencies serving the blind and the deaf.</li> </ul>