



Eighteen students who experience visual impairments stand with their teachers and counselors in a garden with flowers and trees. The students were participating in a weeklong residential summer camp in July of 2022 at Oral Hull Park in Sandy, Oregon.

2021-2022 Blind and Visually Impaired Student Fund Annual Report

Prepared by Northwest Regional Education Service District



2021-2022 Blind and Visually Impaired (BVIS) Student Fund Annual Report

The BVIS Fund was established in Oregon to support students who are blind or visually impaired to access “appropriate resources and services, including educational services, in the communities where the students reside or in other settings identified in individualized education programs.” ([ORS 346.315](#))

In 2021-2022, the Oregon Department of Education, with the recommendation of the Blind & Visually Impaired Student (BVIS) Fund Advisory Committee, approved a total of **25 grants totaling over \$715,000**. These grants align with the following priorities of the Advisory Committee:

- Supports **access to core instruction** (includes assistive technology and training for general education staff).
- Supports access to the **expanded core curriculum** for students who are blind or visually impaired.
- Provides **technical assistance** or **professional development** for the purpose of providing educational services to students who are blind or visually impaired.
- Increases opportunities for students to access their educational program in a **least restrictive setting**.
- Supports **statewide activities previously provided by Oregon School for the Blind** (i.e. sports events, short term camps, short / long term instructional placements).
- Increases **opportunities for underserved students** including students of color and students living in low-population-density areas of the state.

The BVIS Fund works closely with Oregon’s Regional Inclusive Services (RIS) programs, which provide educational services to students experiencing Autism Spectrum Disorder, Blindness / Visual Impairment, Deafblindness, Deafness / Hearing Impairment, Orthopedic Impairment, or Traumatic Brain Injury. RIS Program Managers and representatives from each of Oregon’s eight regions serve on the BVIS Fund Advisory Committee.

Over the last two years, the focus of the BVIS fund has shifted. In previous years, the majority of BVIS fund resources supported camps and sports activities designed to increase access to the expanded core curriculum. Due to the pandemic, many of these types of programs were paused in 2020 and 2021. Although most activities returned in the summer of 2022, the BVIS Advisory Committee shifted focus to prioritize activities that ensure access to instruction for students in their home communities. Examples include technical assistance and coaching to teachers serving students who are Deafblind or experiencing Cortical Vision Impairment; increased opportunities for teachers to learn about assistive technology for their students; and a mentoring program for early career Teachers of the Visually Impaired.

In addition to expanding the access to core instruction, this year’s BVIS grants supported low vision clinic assessments, adaptive physical fitness and social group experiences, and tactile items for sensory modality and communication pathways. The BVIS fund and Regional Inclusive Services Programs have continued to partner with Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation Low Vision Clinics, provided by Dr. John P. Lowery, Chief of Pediatrics for Pacific University EyeClinics, Northwest Association for Blind Athletes, and the Oregon Commission for the Blind.

BVIS Awards By Category

Assistive Technology - 1%
\$5,425

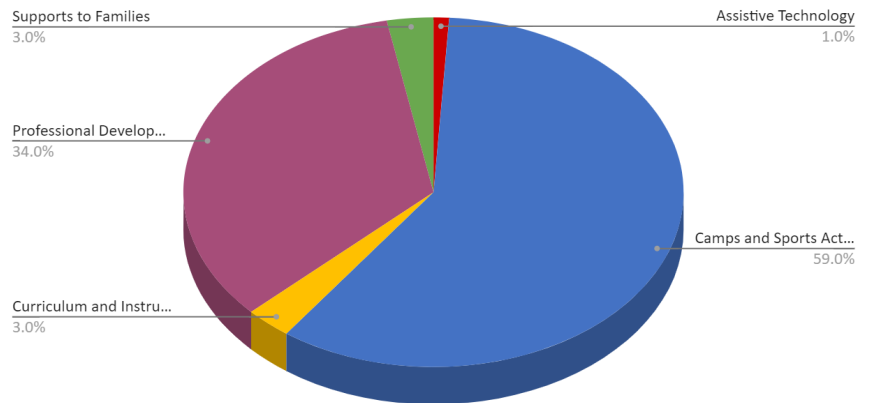
Camps & Sports Activities Supporting the ECC - 59%
\$426,686

Curriculum & Instruction - 3%
\$18,552

Professional Development & Technical Assistance to Educators - 34%
\$243,380

Supports to Families - 3%
\$24,000

2021-2022 BVIS Award Totals by Category



Note: Data does not include anticipated tuition reimbursement for special school placements.

BVIS Awards By Category To Regional Inclusive Services Program

Cascade Regional Inclusive Services:

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) Conference	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$3,000
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Total Awards to Cascade Regional Inclusive Services: \$3,000

Central Oregon Regional Inclusive Services:

Piaf Machine	Assistive Technology	\$1,606
Travel Expenses for families to attend the Statewide Track Meet	Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC	\$7,622

Total Awards to Central Oregon Regional Inclusive Services: \$9,228

Columbia Regional Inclusive Services:

ECC Summer Sessions	Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC	\$57,000
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Total Awards to Columbia Regional Inclusive Services: \$57,000

Eastern Oregon Regional Inclusive Services:

Washington State School for the Blind Short Course	Curriculum and Instruction	\$3,254
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Total Awards to Eastern Oregon Regional Inclusive Services: \$3,254

Lane Regional Inclusive Services:

CVI Sensory Kits	Curriculum and Instruction	\$12,588
Mangold Basic Braille	Curriculum and Instruction	\$642
Topaz Video Magnifier	Assistive Technology	\$3,819
Bridge School Training	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,699
Perkins Conference	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,149

Total Awards to Lane Regional Inclusive Services: \$21,897

Northwest Regional Inclusive Services:

iPhone Data Plan	Curriculum and Instruction	\$1,020
Washington State School for the Blind Short Course	Curriculum and Instruction	\$1,048

Total Awards to Northwest Regional Inclusive Services: \$2,068

BVIS Awards To Community Partners

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes:

Camp Spark Session 1	Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC	\$108,146
Camp Spark Session 4	Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC	\$12,708
Camp Spark Session 6	Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC	\$8,798
Camp Spark Session 7	Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC	\$33,370
Statewide Track Meet	Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC	\$8,206

Total Awards to Northwest Association for Blind Athletes: \$171,228

Oregon Commission for the Blind:

Summer Work Experience Program	Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC	\$190,836
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Total Awards to Oregon Commission for the Blind: \$190,836

Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation:

21-22 Low Vision Clinic	Supports to Families	\$24,000
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Total Awards to Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation: \$24,000

Portland State University Scholarship Program:

Portland State University Orientation and Mobility Program Scholarship <i>Note: This grant was approved in 19-20. One individual applied for and received tuition reimbursement in the 21-22 School Year.</i>	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$33,000
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Total PSU O&M Scholarship Program: \$33,000**BVIS Awards For Special School Placement**

Two school districts in Oregon applied for tuition reimbursement for students who will be attending Washington School for the Blind. The districts will apply for High Cost Disability reimbursement, then invoice the BVIS Fund for the remaining balance of tuition costs. Eagle Point School District and Clatskanie School District applied for tuition reimbursement.

Statewide Technical Assistance Positions Funded by BVIS

The BVIS fund currently pays for seven statewide positions that provide professional development and technical assistance to educators:

BVIS Technology Professional Development Specialist	1.0 FTE
Statewide Technical Assistance for Deafblindness [Note: .5 FTE of this position is funded by Columbia Regional Inclusive Services Program]	1.0 FTE
Cortical Vision Impairment Consultant	.5 FTE
Administrative Specialist	.5 FTE
Grant Management / Administration	.25 FTE
Statewide Math Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) (Approved for the 22-23 SY)	.25 FTE
Statewide Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) Lead Mentor (Approved for the 22-23 SY)	.5 FTE

BVIS Awards By Category**Assistive Technology:**

Piaf Machine	Central Oregon Regional Inclusive Services	\$1,606
Topaz Video Magnifier	Lane Regional Inclusive Services	\$3,819

Total Awards - Assistive Technology: \$5,425

Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC:

ECC Summer Sessions	Columbia Regional Inclusive Services	\$57,000
Camp Spark Session 1	Northwest Association for Blind Athletes	\$108,146
Camp Spark Session 4	Northwest Association for Blind Athletes	\$12,708
Camp Spark Session 6	Northwest Association for Blind Athletes	\$8,798
Camp Spark Session 7	Northwest Association for Blind Athletes	\$33,370
Track Meet	Northwest Association for Blind Athletes	\$8,206
Travel Expenses for families to attend the Track Meet	Central Oregon Regional Inclusive Services	\$7,622
Summer Work Experience Program	Oregon Commission for the Blind	\$190,836

Total Awards - Camps and Sports Activities Supporting the ECC: \$426,686

Curriculum and Instruction:

CVI Sensory Kits	Lane Regional Inclusive Services	\$12,588
iPhone Data Plan	Northwest Regional Inclusive Services	\$1,020
Washington State School for the Blind Short Course	Eastern Oregon Regional Inclusive Services	\$3,254
Washington State School for the Blind Short Course	Northwest Regional Inclusive Services	\$1,048
Mangold Basic Braille	Lane Regional Inclusive Services	\$642

Total Awards - Curriculum and Instruction: \$18,552

Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators:

Orientation and Mobility Training	Portland State University	\$33,000
Cortical Vision Impairment Statewide Technical Assist.	Columbia Regional Inclusive Services	\$94,104
Statewide Technical Assistance for Deafblindness	Columbia Regional Inclusive Services	\$108,428
Conference Registration & Travel for Educators	Lane Regional Inclusive Services	\$4,848
Conference Registration & Travel for Educators	Cascade Regional Inclusive Services	\$3,000

Total Awards - Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators: \$243,380

Supports to Families:

21-22 Low Vision Clinics	Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	\$24,000
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Total Awards - Supports to Families: \$24,000

BVIS GRANTS: DIVERSE IMPACT FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, & FAMILIES

In 2021-2022, the Oregon Department of Education, with the recommendation of the Blind & Visually Impaired Student (BVIS) Fund Advisory Committee, approved a total of 25 grants totaling over \$740,000.



Students were able to participate in more camps and sports activities this year. Many of these events were canceled in recent years due to the pandemic.

Eight BVIS Grants supported Camps & Sports Activities Supporting the ECC \$426,686

Oregon students with visual impairments and deaf-blindness independently participate in experiences and programs focused on self-determination, social skills, physical education and sports, daily living achievements, recreation and leisure, and orientation and mobility (O&M) using adapted equipment.

Six BVIS Grants funded Curriculum & Instruction \$18,552

Teachers of students with visual impairments purchase and distribute comprehensive resources to ensure that both educational and home settings support the unique tactile, visual, auditory and olfactory needs of blind and visually impaired students and their families.



Six BVIS Grants supported Professional Development & Technical Assistance To Educators \$243,380

Professional development funds provide educators access to specialized technical assistance training and collaborative learning communities specific to the needs of vision impaired students.



Two BVIS Grants funded Assistive Technology \$5,425

Two BVIS Grants funded Supports to Families \$48,000

EMAIL BVIS@NWRESD.K12.OR FOR MORE INFO ON BVIS AWARDS