



Thirty nine students who experience visual impairments gathered at Ackerman Center Field in Canby, OR for the Oregon Youth Track Meet, on May 31, 2024. The students range in age from preschool to transition. Activities included 50, 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1600 meter dashes as well as a variety of field events. The Blind Visually Impaired Student Fund partnered with Northwest Association of Blind Athletes for the event.

## **2023-2024 Blind and Visually Impaired Student Fund Annual Report**

Prepared by Northwest Regional Education Service District



## 2023-2024 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 2023-2024, the Oregon Department of Education, with the recommendation of the Blind & Visually Impaired Student (BVIS) Fund Advisory Committee, approved a total of 45 grants totaling nearly \$570,000. 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.

During the 2023-2024 school year, the BVIS fund focused on Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators as well as Activities Supporting the Expanded Core Curriculum ECC. Examples include professional development, 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 access to professional development opportunities for Teachers of the Visually Impaired, BVIS has sponsored activities related to the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) and Supports to Families. This year’s BVIS grants supported low vision clinic assessments, adaptive physical fitness activities, and social group experiences. The BVIS fund and Regional Inclusive Services Programs have continued to partner with Northwest Association for Blind Athletes, and Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation Low Vision Clinics, provided by Dr. John P. Lowery, Chief of Pediatrics for Pacific University EyeClinics.

**BVIS Awards By Category**

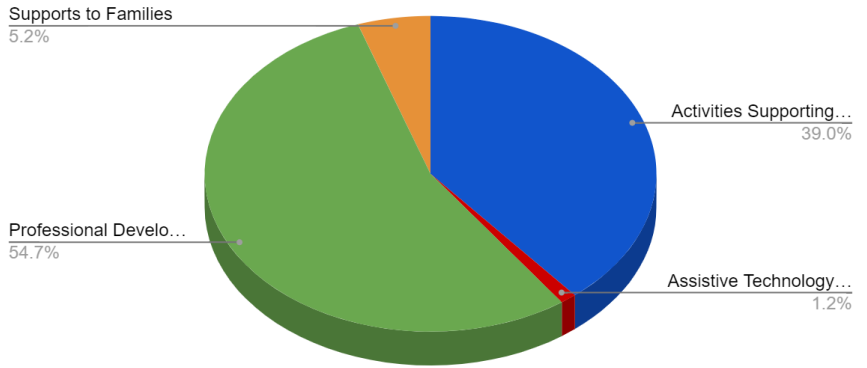
Activities Supporting the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) - \$221,445

Assistive Technology, Equipment, and Materials - \$6,639

Professional Development & Technical Assistance to Educators - \$310,691

Supports to Families - \$29,605

**2023-2024 BVIS Award Totals by Category**



**BVIS Awards By Category To Regional Inclusive Services Program**

**Cascade Regional Inclusive Services:**

Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Kelly Gill	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,574
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Erin Keller	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,535
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Dan Glowicki	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,535
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Jennifer Orton	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,535
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Shandra Harris	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,535
Attend American Printing House (APH) Monarch Braille Display Training	Assistive Technology, Equipment, and Materials	\$897

Total Awards to Cascade Regional Inclusive Services: \$13,611

**Central Oregon Regional Inclusive Services:**

Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Nancy Abbott and Jen Crye	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$3,390
Ski Trip	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$2,202
Attend Track Meet	Supports to Families	\$3,480

Total Awards to Central Oregon Regional Inclusive Services: \$9,072

Columbia Regional Inclusive Services:

Teacher and Para Inservice	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$1,257
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Kate Dilworth	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$698
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Kristen Buhler	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$698
Cortical Vision Impairment Training	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$897
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Darlene Daniels	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$1,878
Group Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Lessons	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$2,650
Statewide Deafblindness (DB) Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) .5 FTE	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$66,046
Attend Council of Schools & Services for the Blind (COSB) Outreach Meeting	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$1,559
Statewide Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) .5 FTE	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$60,581

Total Awards to Columbia Regional Inclusive Services: \$136,264

Lane Regional Inclusive Services:

Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Barbara Minkler and Kristin Gault	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$5,492
Breakfast Club	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$1,500
Attend American Printing House (APH) Monarch Braille Display Training	Assistive Technology, Equipment, and Materials	\$247

Total Awards to Lane Regional Inclusive Services: \$7,239

Northwest Regional Inclusive Services:

Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) Mentor for New TVIs	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$70,000
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Kat Taplin	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$1,413
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Abbey Waranch	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$1,670
Blind Visually Impaired (BVI) Professional Learning Team (PLT) Conference	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$23,000
Statewide Math Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) .3 FTE	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$42,500
Oaks Amusement Park Field Trip	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$407
Attend Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired International Conference	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$1,933

Total Awards to Northwest Regional Inclusive Services: \$140,923

Southern Oregon Regional Inclusive Services:



Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Brooke Thompson, Carlie Wiley-Wolter, Emma Perez, and Robert Wohlers	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$7,440
Rogue Rock Gym Rock Climbing	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$1,600

Total Awards to Southern Oregon Regional Inclusive Services: \$9,040

Willamette Regional Inclusive Services:

Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Anne Olson-Murphy	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$1,892
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Jill Hyder	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,153
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Adam Amundsen	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$1,441
Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Susan Duncan	Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators	\$2,039
End of Year ECC Celebration	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$560
Mountbatten Braille Tutor	Assistive Technology, Equipment, and Materials	\$5,495

Total Awards to Willamette Regional Inclusive Services: \$13,580

**BVIS Awards To Community Partners**

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes:

Camp Spark Session 1	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$118,686
Camp Spark Session 4	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$16,365
Camp Spark Session 5	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$9,816
Camp Spark Session 6	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$12,464
Camp Spark Session 7	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$37,524
Oregon Youth Paralympic Experience	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$6,326
Oregon Youth Goalball Tournament	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$5,179
Oregon Youth Track Meet	Activities Supporting the ECC	\$6,166

Total Awards to Northwest Association for Blind Athletes: \$212,526

Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation:

23-24 Low Vision Clinic	Supports to Families	\$26,125
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Total Awards to Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation: \$26,125

## 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 Deafblindness (DB) Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA)	.5 FTE
Statewide Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA)	.5 FTE
Administrative Specialist	.5 FTE
Grant Management / Administration	.25 FTE
Statewide Math Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA)	.3 FTE
Statewide Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) Lead Mentor (TOSA)	.5 FTE

## BVIS Awards By Category

Activities Supporting the ECC:

Ski Trip	Central Oregon Regional Inclusive Services	\$2,202
Group Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Lessons	Columbia Regional Inclusive Services	\$2,650
Breakfast Club	Lane Regional Inclusive Services	\$1,500
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Rogue Rock Gym Rock Climbing	Southern Oregon Regional Inclusive Services	\$1,600
End of Year ECC Celebration	Willamette Regional Inclusive Services	\$560

Total Awards - Activities Supporting the ECC: \$221,445

Assistive Technology, Equipment, and Materials:

Attend American Printing House (APH) Monarch Braille	Cascade Regional Inclusive Services	\$897
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Display Training		
Attend American Printing House (APH) Monarch Braille Display Training	Lane Regional Inclusive Services	\$247
Mountbatten Braille Tutor	Willamette Regional Inclusive Services	\$5,495

Total Awards - Assistive Technology, Equipment, and Materials: \$6,639

Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators:

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Attend Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference_ Susan Duncan	Willamette Regional Inclusive Services	\$2,039

Total Awards - Professional Development and Technical Assistance to Educators: \$310,691

Supports to Families:

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23-24 Low Vision Clinic	Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation	\$26,125

Total Awards - Supports to Families: \$29,605