



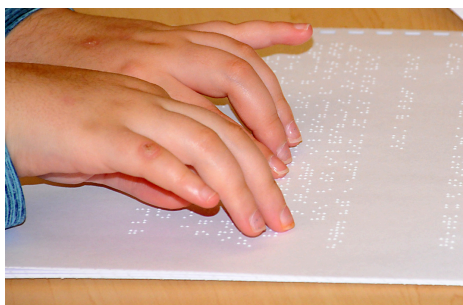
**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE
BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED**



Serving students since 1903

WWW.NMSBVI.K12.NM.US

- **Birth-3 department** provides early intervention for children with a diagnosed visual impairment, or who are identified at-risk
- **Two campuses** serve students 3-22; placement on one of our campuses is determined by the home district and education team identifying a level of need that requires the intensive supports NMSBVI provides.
 - Albuquerque Campus is our Early Childhood Program for students in PreK and Kindergarten.
 - Alamogordo campus is our Residential Campus for students ages 3-22.
- **Outreach Program** provides supports with services and evaluations to school districts throughout the state.



~2,200+

students served per year

Each School Year:

- ~1,600 students in New Mexico receive direct service from NMSBVI programs
- ~113 students attend on a campus
- 100+ evaluations conducted (functional vision evaluations and learning media assessments for students in districts, low vision evaluations at our low vision clinics, assistive technology evaluations for students in districts, evaluations for babies in B-3 program)
- Over 2,400 adapted books and learning materials loaned to NM districts
- Over 60 assistive technology devices loaned directly to students

Instruction at NMSBVI:

- Students are taught a combination of the **Common Core Standards/Core Curriculums and the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC)**. The ECC defines concepts and skills that often require specialized instruction, since students with blindness/low vision often have decreased opportunity to learn incidentally through observation. It is comprised of nine areas: Assistive Technology, Career Education, Compensatory Skills, Independent Living Skills, Orientation and Mobility, Recreation and Leisure, Self-Determination, Sensory Efficiency, and Social Skills)
- **Extracurricular events** such as Braille Challenge, Summer Camps, Make 48, Athletics
- Instruction in **Nemeth Braille Code**, which is specifically designed for math and science annotations
- **Maker Mondays**- Born from our Make 48 experience. Students are placed into groups and assigned a project with general guidelines. They have to plan what they are going to develop, get money from the "bank," purchase supplies, and create, all on their own. It combines STEM with life and career skills.

Innovations in Accessible Science

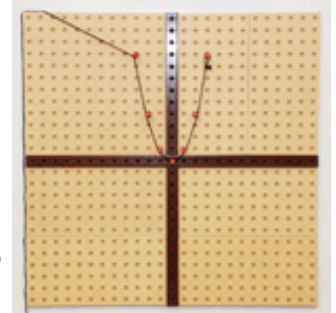


The System for Conceptualizing Spatial Concepts (SC)²: Winner of the 2009 Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation!

Developed within chemistry classes at NMSBVI, the (SC)² uses a system of beveled and magnetized blocks on a magnetic white board to spatially arrange, manipulate, and calculate complex mathematical and scientific formulae using terms and values brailled on index cards. This provides students with visual impairments opportunities for higher order thinking and access to scientific and mathematical literacy.

Touch Grids: Honorable Mention for the 2010 Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation!

An instructional tool developed within the physics classes at NMSBVI that facilitates greater mathematic and graphical literacy by using a series of connectable and interchangeable grid panels, axes, and pegs to tactually display graphical processes from quantitative data. This tool allows students with visual impairments to gain greater independence, success, and access to advanced study in math/science and ultimately employment in STEM fields.



Capital Outlay

- Early Childhood Program design and development
- Facilities Master Plan and ongoing development

Technology

- Monarch- We have partnered with the American Printing House for the Blind to pilot a first-of-its-kind multi-line braille device that can render tactile graphics and full pages of braille.
- Assistive Technology Lending Library: loans devices out to students and districts around the state. They also assist in conducting evaluations to identify the most appropriate equipment.
- Low Vision Clinics are offered multiple times a year all around the state. These are offered at no cost and allow families with a child with vision loss access to an ophthalmologist who works to identify a child's visual needs and possible equipment.
- Direct instruction and coursework in teaching use of Access Technology across programs and Campuses

Shortfalls

Identifying shortfalls is an ongoing process for NMSBVI. We work everyday to help our students learn the social and access skills they need in order to meaningfully participate in their community and the workforce. Blindness is not the limitation, a world designed for sighted people is; ~80% of classroom learning is visual and the cost of brailled materials, assistive technology, and other adaptive devices is always a concern, particularly since we are the main provider of these items for all students with vision loss around the state.

