Educational Opportunities

The South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired located in Aberdeen, SD offers a variety of programs and services designed to serve the educational needs of students from birth to 21 years who are blind, visually impaired, and/or multi-handicapped.

Within the on-campus program, special emphasis is given to adapting teaching materials and methodologies to meet the needs of each student. The curriculum blends academic coursework and practical skills to enable each student to attain their maximum independence.

Instruction is also provided in:

- Orientation and Mobility
- Braille
- Assistive Technology
- Independent Living
- Career Education
- Community Based Instruction
- Recreation and Leisure
- Social Interaction
- Self-Determination
- Sensory Efficiency

Summer 2016

Expanded Core Curriculum Training

The curriculum of the Summer Program is designed for students who are blind or visually impaired, with emphasis being placed on training in the “Expanded Core Curriculum” skills areas. In addition to the traditional academic subjects, students who are blind or visually impaired need to learn specific skills to better prepare them for independence. During our Summer Program we include many of the following experiences.

- Assistive Technology (electronic magnification, screen magnification, scanning and reading, iPads, and refreshable Braille)
- Career Education & Transition (career exploration, job seeking skills, job shadowing and work experiences)
- Compensatory Academic Skills, including communication (skills needed to access the academic curriculum including concept development, spatial awareness, listening skills, communication mode, and modes for reading and writing (Braille, large print, tactile symbols, recorded materials)
- Independent Living Skills (personal hygiene, food preparation, clothing care, shopping, accessing community services, self-advocacy, money management, time management, and organizational skills)
- Orientation and Mobility (cane use, community travel, mobility aids, iPhone use, and public transportation)
- Recreation and Leisure Skills (fitness, sports, games, boating, bowling, movies, board games, and swimming)
- Self-Determination Skills (self-advocacy skills that will help a student develop problem-solving skills to interact effectively with others to get things done)
- Sensory Efficiency Skills (learning to use all senses)
- Social Interaction Skills (getting along with others)

Return application to:
Dawn LaMee, Liaison for Services
SDSBV
423 17th Avenue SE
Aberdeen SD 57401

Contact Dawn LaMee for more information:
605-626-2580 (school)
605-626-2807 (fax)
1-888-275-3814 (toll free):
dawn.lamme@sdsbvi.northern.edu (e-mail)
http://sdsbvi.northern.edu (website)
The Extended School Year Summer Program brings together blind and visually impaired students from across South Dakota for learning and fun.

Students who are blind or visually impaired, ages 6-21, who reside in South Dakota, may attend free of charge. Students residing outside of the state may attend the program in Aberdeen on a tuition basis.

Each student’s summer program needs to be coordinated with his/her IEP or 504 Plan. If your child’s team determines that he/she needs the “Skills of Blindness” to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), the Summer Program offered at the SDSBVI can be considered as an Extended School Year (ESY) program.

A student may attend one week or any combination of one to six weeks.

Information about your child is obtained from our outreach staff so please make sure they have copies of the following documents before the summer program starts.

- copy of his/her IEP or 504 Plan
- copies of most recent evaluations in any of the following areas: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Orientation & Mobility, Adaptive Physical Education, Speech & Language, Braille & Tactile Skills, Career Exploration, Recreation & Leisure, Activities of Daily Living, Assistive Technology, and Social Interaction Skills

Please return this form by April 10, 2016